

Hafa Adai!

Winzy responds to Poon's claim of incomplete work. **PAGE 2**

Army recruiting office sees 5 to 6 recruits a month. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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POLICE WEEK
 Department of Public Safety administrators, police officers, and staff pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, yesterday at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill, soon after the signing of three proclamations that designate May as CNMI Police Week, Click it or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization, and National Safe Boating Week in the CNMI.

JUSTINE NAUTA
Story on Page 2

\$482M now available for NMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Treasury has allocated \$481,876,521 of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the CNMI and opened the application portal, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday.

See \$482M on Page 4

Territory	Total Funding	Funding Based on Population	Funding from Even Distribution
American Samoa	\$479,135,254	\$29,135,254	\$450,000,000
Guam	\$553,582,247	\$103,582,247	\$450,000,000
Northern Marianas	\$481,876,521	\$31,876,521	\$450,000,000
Puerto Rico	\$2,470,061,908	\$2,020,061,908	\$450,000,000
Virgin Islands	\$515,344,070	\$65,344,070	\$450,000,000
TOTAL	\$4,500,000,000	\$2,250,000,000	\$2,250,000,000

NMI businesses urged to avail of restaurant aid program
» Torres under-scores need to assist struggling small businesses

RELATED NEWS
 SBA approves 16K-plus restaurant assistance applications. **PAGE 5**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
 ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Acknowledging the vital role of small businesses in the CNMI's economy, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres encouraged restaurants and other food businesses that are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic to apply for direct relief through the \$28.6-billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Torres

In his response to a request for comment about the program during a radio news briefing on Friday, Torres urged all the affected businesses to avail of it. "With the way things run [here], the government can't function

See NMI on Page 4

'Saipan is 1st base of operations for latest Navy warship'
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
 ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

USS *Miguel Keith*, the U.S. Navy's latest Expeditionary Sea Base ship that was commissioned in San Diego Saturday, will be based out on Saipan, according to news reports in the U.S. mainland.

Quoting the U.S. Navy, reports said the 785-foot warship's first base of operations will be on Saipan. It is named after Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith and is the first ship to bear the name.

Commissioning of a Navy vessel refers to placing the

SAN DIEGO—The Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary mobile base USS *Miguel Keith* sits pierside during the ship's commissioning ceremony.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 KEVIN C. LEITNER

ship in active service. When asked about the news, Glenna Sakisat Palacios, special assistant to the

See SAIPAN on Page 4

AT A GLANCE
 As of 5pm, May 11, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,098
Fully Vaccinated:	18,070
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,340
Fully Vaccinated:	2,438
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	65

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,043	1	8,044
Recovered	7,814	3	7,817
Active	90	0	90
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	156,307		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	170	0	170
Traced via Travel Screening	134	0	134
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	55		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
 Naked Fish is extending perks to people who have already completed their vaccine regimen.

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NATION
 U.S. regulators have expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12.

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LIFE & STYLE
 Romanian doctors are offering a jab in the arm at Dracula's castle in Transylvania.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Winzy says it didn't complete work because of IPI's nonpayment

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Winzy Corp.'s lawyer said the general maintenance and repair company completed 95% of the work under its contract with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC and the reason it didn't finish the remaining 5% was because it

"became tired" of waiting for IPI to pay its bills.

In a response filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last May 10, lawyer Mark Scoggins, who represents Winzy Corp. in its breach of contract lawsuit against IPI, addressed the claims made in Poon's declaration of support of IPI's motion to vacate entry

of default. First, IPI failed to meet the May 3 deadline set by the court to provide evidence of a meritorious defense to the lawsuit, Scoggins said. Second, even if IPI made the May 3 deadline, IPI still has not shown that it "might have a defense to this matter."

In Poon's declaration, he mentions the Feb. 18, 2020,

contract between IPI and Winzy Corp. and the alleged details that made Poon conclude that, to the best of his knowledge, Winzy's work was "short of full completion and certification." However, Winzy maintains that Poon's declaration "contains very little in the way of new, substantive information." Firstly, there should no longer be any dispute in regards to the validity of the contract, its terms, or the price, Winzy said. Secondly, Winzy has previously explained to the court that the \$162,925 in non-payments it

is suing IPI for represents the cost of approximately 95% of the required work completed by Winzy that IPI has not paid for at all.

"Winzy therefore agrees with IPI that Winzy's work was short of full completion, but this does not mean that IPI has shown a meritorious defense," Winzy's May 10 response states.

The portion of Poon's declaration that Winzy responded to involved Poon's claims about Roger Deducin's alleged last documented site visit on May 27 last year. Winzy maintains

that— from mid-February up to when Winzy quit working on the project due to IPI's non-payment in mid-August—Deducin, along with at least four other Winzy employees, were at the project site every business day, and that Deducin provided written monthly reports on work progress to the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Copies of those written reports were always shared with IPI, and Winzy maintains that Deducin was present for all construction meetings that

See WINZY on Page 4



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May is CNMI Police Week

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs three proclamations that designates May as CNMI Police Week, Click it or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization and National Safe Boating Week in the CNMI yesterday at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill.

JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed yesterday at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill three proclamations designating May 9-15 as CNMI Police Week, May 17 to June 6 as Click it or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization, and May 22 to 28 as National Safe Boating Week in the CNMI.

The three proclamations intend to recognize the CNMI's committed law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of laws, strengthen the relationship with the community and the officers, and strengthen the campaign for everyone in the CNMI to wear seatbelts regularly.

Police Week also focuses on celebrating law enforcement agencies in the CNMI who work tirelessly to protect citizens and enforce laws to keep neighborhoods safe. "We report for duty when knowing full well the dangers [we] face, and the sacrifices [I am] called upon to make," said an officer, citing the proclamation.

At the core of Police Week is National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, which is intended to pay tribute to the thousands of men and women in service who paid with their lives in the line of work. "We remember the heroes who have laid down their lives in pursuit of a safer, more just society. ... It is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties, and responsibilities and sacrifices of law enforcement agencies," said the officer.

The proclamation also pays tribute to the surviving family members of fallen heroes.

For its part, the CNMI Click it or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Campaign's main objectives are to ensure all motor vehicle occupants, whether citizens or visitors, are buckled up day and night to reduce the risk of injury and death caused by crashes.

An estimated 69,000 seatbelt-related fatalities happened nationwide from 2015 to 2019. Also, a 2019 seatbelt survey revealed a 93.97% usage rate by travelers on the

highways and byways of the CNMI.

The proclamation says regular seatbelt use is the most effective way to reduce injuries and fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, which is also supported by the laws of the CNMI.

As for the National Boating Safety Week, the proclamation says boating activities, such as boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing, are enjoyed by nearly 100 million Americans from coast to coast. To promote boating safety, the proclamation expects all boaters to "explore and enjoy America's water responsibly."

The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents, and that life jackets could prevent 86% of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures, carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating can help ensure boaters stay safe.

Army recruiting office sees 5 to 6 recruits a month

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Army Recruiting Center sees an average of five to six recruits a month, according to Staff Sgt. Michael Ryan.

In an interview with Ryan, he says his office averages to a total of 60 to 72 recruits yearly for the U.S. Army. Of that number, though, only about 60% to 70% get sworn in and are ready for service.

Ryan says recruits must qualify first to get taken in. This means that they have to

meet special requirements such as a medical, physical, and health exam followed by the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, a series of tests that measure English, math, general science, etc.

According to Ryan, the recruitment center was shut down for three months dur-

ing the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic last March 2020. After the first three months, Ryan said they were back to recruiting for a few more months and then shut down again for another few months.



Ryan

Ryan says the recruiting center hasn't encountered any problems so far this year. "Since we started back up it hasn't been too much of an issue. We've had to adjust our processes, but we still been pretty successful," said Ryan.

He says Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have always supported their mission, especially with recruiting. "We've never had an issue with the CNMI, and [the] guys are more than ready to serve in the Army. We have a lot of guys that are interested, so it keeps me busy...

and I'm appreciative of that," he said.

Ryan encourages those who are interested to contact the recruiting center on their official Facebook page at CNMI Army Recruiting Center or call them at 234-5406.

"It doesn't hurt to come in [and] ask us if they are qualified for service," said Ryan.

Ayuyus hold change-of-command ceremony

The Ayuyu Battalion of Kagman High School held a change of command ceremony last April 30, with outgoing commander C/LTC Tessa Sablan Aguon passing the battalion command colors to incoming commander C/LTC Frances Reyes at the Kagman High School Drill Pad.

The ceremony was attended by two honored guests: Board of Education chair Andrew Orsini and Assistant Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna. Both guests gave

inspirational remarks.

Other guests at the ceremony were Kagman High School principal Benjamin Jones, Kagman High School vice principal of Discipline Francisca Castro, and Kagman High School vice principal of Academics Shirley Norita.

According to a battalion statement, Reyes has the outstanding leadership capabilities and dedication to reach the position of battalion commander for school year 2021/22. She will now hold total responsibility for what the battalion does

or does not do.

Ayuyu cadets are more than honored to have Reyes lead the Kagman JROTC into the future during these difficult times, according to senior army instructor CPT James Burke.

Aguon will be attending Northern Marianas College this fall semester. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School principal Benjamin Jones receives the Ayuyu Battalion command colors from outgoing commander C/LTC Tessa Sablan Aguon.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meet your CNMI legislators

The public is invited to attend town hall meetings this week, on Thursday, May 13, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria (Chalan Kanoa, Precinct 2) at 6pm, and Friday, May 14, at the Carolinian Utt (Garapan, Precinct 3), at 6pm.

The town halls are part of a series of quarterly meetings throughout the Commonwealth hosted by members of the CNMI House and Senate, and will include reports on legislative activities, expenditures, and community projects, followed by a question-and-answer portion and public comments. For more information about the Precinct 2 town hall, contact the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) at 664-8829 or rep.sablanc@cnmleg.net. For more information about the Precinct 3 town hall, contact the Office of Rep. Denita Yanggetmai at 664-8965 or rep.denyky04@gmail.com or the Office of Rep. Vicente Camacho at 664-8903 or rep.camachov@cnmleg.net. (PR)

SINMI meeting on Thursday

The monthly meeting of the Soroptimist of the Northern Mariana Islands is this Thursday, May 13, at noon at the new Island Cafe on Middle Road in their private back room. You can park at the back side of the restaurant. We will be ordering from the menu.

Please join us. We are looking to grow our club and will be discussing our big "Fun-Raiser," the Margaritaville, which will take place on May 14, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets are \$25 with bottomless margaritas, finger food, and raffle prizes. All funds raised go toward SINMI's Live Your Dream Award in October.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. They celebrate their 100th birthday this year. (PR)

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PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

IT&E offers \$50 off internet plans for households impacted by pandemic

A monthly discount for internet and data-only plans is now available at IT&E to assist those who have been negatively impacted financially due to the pandemic.

The discount is offered through the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program launched by the Federal Communications Commission to provide eligible households and individuals with a \$50 credit per month for broadband and a one-time credit of \$100 to purchase one tablet.

The \$50 credit can be used for IT&E's 50Mbps and 25Mbps 2- or 3-Service Internet Bundles, as well as for the 50GB Data-only Plan.

The following households or individuals qualify:

- Current Lifeline Program subscribers

- Recipients of benefits under the free and reduced-price school

lunch program or the school breakfast program

- Experienced a substantial loss of income since Feb. 29, 2020, that is documented by layoff or furlough notice, application for unemployment insurance benefits, or similar documentation; and the household had a total income below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers in 2020.

- Households or individuals that meet Lifeline-qualifying program eligibility: Meet household income requirements; or is a participant of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefit Programs.

"The pandemic has and will continue to have long-lasting impacts in our community. The EBB Program

provides relief to those that need access to vital online services, such as education and work, so they can dedicate their financial resources to other necessities. We encourage all who are eligible to apply," said Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E.

To sign up for the EBB Program, households or individuals must visit <http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org> to submit an application form and upload the required documents. Documents may include proof of identity, proof of residential address, household worksheet, proof of emancipated minor, proof of program/income, or proof of life.

Current Lifeline Program subscribers must visit <https://iteintranet.com/ebb-consent/> to submit a consent form to participate in the EBB Program.

The EBB Program is subject to the

availability of funds or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner. A household can only get one benefit, not per person, for internet service. A qual-

Emergency water service interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption today, May 12, 2021, from 8:30am to 4pm, for customers in the areas of San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag.

The emergency water interruption is due to the isolation of two 2 ½ -inch service line leaks located on Chalan Pale Arnold fronting the former Joy Hotel and Bwalang Avenue in Tanapag for water operators to perform leak repairs. Repairs on the

ified consumer cannot give their benefit to another person, if that other person qualifies. Only one tablet per household can use the \$100 device benefit.

More information about the EBB Program can be found at ite.net. (PR)

water lines are anticipated to be completed today at 4pm. Water service scheduled hours to the affected areas will resume from 4pm to 6pm.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, please proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

SAIPAN

From Page 1

terday that they were informed that

the Navy's commissioning of USS *Miguel Keith* took place last May 8 at Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, California.

"According to information pro-

vided to our office, USS *Miguel Keith* will be part of the Forward Deployed Naval Force operating from Saipan to provide logistics movement from sea to shore sup-

porting a broad range of humanitarian and military operations," Palacios said.

She said she has no information as to when the ship is arriving here.

The reports said USS *Miguel Keith* was built in San Diego and was delivered to the Navy on Nov. 15, 2019.

The Navy reportedly previously planned for the ESBs to be Military

Sealift Command ships, but in early 2020s the Navy announced it would commission all ESBs as warships.

The reports identified USS *Miguel Keith*'s commanding officer as Capt. Troy A. Fendrick, who leads a crew of about 100 military officers and crew, alongside 44 Military Sealift Civil Service Mariners.

The USS *Miguel Keith* is the Navy's third purpose-built ESB. While originally created to operate as a support ship under Military Sealift Command, USS *Miguel Keith* has been commissioned to provide greater mission flexibility in accordance with the laws of armed conflict.



Capt. Troy A. Fendrick, commanding officer of the USS *Miguel Keith*, speaks during the ship's commissioning ceremony.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 KEVIN C. LEITNER

NMI

From Page 1

without our partners or business partners," said Torres.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which administers the Restaurant Revitalization Fund program, opened the application period last May 3. So far, SBA has already approved more than 16,000 applications for assistance—just one week after opening the application process. **See story on Page 5)**

Entities eligible to apply include restaurants, caterers, bars bakeries, and breweries. The online application will remain open to any eligible establishment until all funds are exhausted.

Torres said that, with everyone struggling across the board, the government is here to assist small businesses in different ways. He noted that, by language and definition, 99% of the businesses in the CNMI are considered small businesses.

"It's easy to say I want to help

small businesses. That's easy. I want to help and I will help," he said. The issue is how do they help everybody across the board equally and as fairly as they can.

"We can go down the line on what kind of occupations, what kind of small businesses we will help. At the end of the day, small business is small business, and we need to help everybody across the board. One small business on your left, one small business on the right. In order for us to work as a government, we need both of them," he said.

Torres also encouraged other entrepreneurs to take a risk and look at what the CNMI needs, whether it's locally or even globally. "What can they produce here that we can send and export? What can we import that will also benefit locally?" he asked.

Torres assured that he's always been pro-business because he understands that it's the business partners that are able to sustain the economy and every opportunity for every individual in the CNMI.

WINZY

From Page 2

were held at least once a month. Winzy further claims that IPI construction director Jing Zhou and Poon himself were present at these monthly meetings as well. Additionally, Winzy claims that numerous IPI employees and representatives, including IPI engineers Jojie Montenegro and Kelvin Ng, were aware that there were

people from Winzy at the project site every day from Feb. to Aug. 2020.

Winzy's May 10 response concluded by saying that Winzy was on site and performed 95% of the work it had agreed to perform until it "became tired" of waiting for IPI to pay its bills. Winzy maintains that IPI has still not provided any meaningful evidence to dispute the percentage or the \$162,925 it owes Winzy, and as such the motion to set aside the entry of default should be denied.

\$482M

From Page 1

Treasury also issued expanded guidance on how the money can be used by the Commonwealth and by states and territories nationwide.

Congress appropriated the money in the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11.

"This is very good news for the Commonwealth," Sablan said. "Government revenues are way down because of the pandemic, but the need for government services continues.

Sablan said this \$482 million from the American Rescue Plan Act will fill the gap and give the Commonwealth what it needs to pay government employees, help individual families and businesses, meet the increased costs of providing health services, and even invest in new infrastructure.

Congress provided \$4.5 billion for the U.S. insular areas in the Ameri-

can Rescue Plan. Half the money was divided evenly among the five areas; the other half was divided by population. Sablan said the allocation system Congress established helped areas with smaller populations, like the Marianas.

The Commonwealth will receive the Fiscal Recovery Funds as a single payment, Treasury said.

The department also released yesterday details on how the funds can be used. State and territorial governments may use the money to replace revenue lost because of the pandemic. Treasury has set up a methodology to compare actual revenue with what could have been expected without the pandemic based on the three prior years' revenue growth or 4.1%, the national average.

The money may also be used to help those in the greatest economic hardship, Treasury said. The Commonwealth will be able to provide job training and other assistance to unemployed workers, and direct aid to families facing food, housing, and

other financial insecurity. Small businesses, particularly those in travel and tourism, may be given loans, grants, and counseling to help their recovery.

Investment in infrastructure is also permitted. Water and sewer projects that align with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which the Commonwealth receives, are allowed. Broadband infrastructure can be built out to meet the standard of 100 Mbps (megabits per second) download and 100 Mbps upload speeds. And direct aid to households to support internet access at these speeds is an eligible use of the American Rescue Plan grant to the Commonwealth.

Municipalities in the Marianas are also qualified to receive Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Treasury said it expects to provide further guidance on distributions to municipalities in the coming days. (PR)

SBA approves 16K-plus restaurant assistance applications

Just one week after the U.S. Small Business Administration opened the application process for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, it announced yesterday that more than 16,000 applicants have already been approved for assistance.

In a statement yesterday, SBA said this first round of funding represents over \$2 billion of relief awarded since Monday's program launch. Restaurants and other food and beverage businesses across the nation will begin to see funds in bank accounts as early as Tuesday, May 11.

"Just one week after launching the \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund, the SBA has begun to fund applications and that more than 16,000 restaurants and other food and beverage business owners will get much-needed relief in their hands," said SBA administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. "We know that this help is urgently

needed by so many who have suffered disproportionately from this pandemic and have often been unable to access relief. Restaurants are the core of our neighborhoods and propel economic activity on Main Streets across the nation. The SBA is here to help them build resilience to survive this pandemic as we get our economy back on track."

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund was established by the American Rescue Plan that President Joe Biden recently signed into law. Under this new law, restaurants are eligible for funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue losses, capped at \$10 million per business and \$5 million per location.

SBA will continue to fund approved applications until all funds have been exhausted. Following the 21-day priority period, all eligible applications will be funded in the order in which they have

been received.

While the SBA will continue accepting applications from any eligible establish-

ment until funds are exhausted, the number of applications received so far could exhaust the funds authorized to fund

the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Interested onsite food establishments may still apply through SBA-recognized

POS vendors or directly via the SBA online application portal: <https://restaurants.sba.gov>. (PR)

May 13 is World Falun Dafa Day

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Falun Dafa Association will be celebrating World Falun Dafa Day on May 13, with members spreading the group's tenets of "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance" by passing out informational pamphlets and giving small lotus flowers as gifts at the San Jose intersection in front of Atkins-Kroll Toyota Saipan from 9am to 11am on Thursday, and a motorcade parade from 3pm to 5pm later in the day.

The celebration on May 13 is one of many Falun Dafa events that are planned in May. Previous motorcade parades took place on May 1, 8, and 9 and future motorcade parades are planned for this Thursday and Friday.

A Saipan Falun Dafa Saipan spokesperson, who asked that she only be identified by her first name, Catherine, thanked the Department of Public Safety for its help in ensuring that Falun Dafa's motorcade parades go smoothly, and helping making sure that the parades were "peaceful and full of righteousness."

"The universal value of 'Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance' will increasingly be rooted in the hearts of the simple and kind-hearted residents of Saipan. ... Everyone is welcome to personally experience the physical and mental health and beauty that Falun Dafa brings to people through understanding the truth," said Catherine.

Falun Dafa, or Falun Gong, is a religious movement that was formed in the early 1990s



File photo shows the fleet of cars with Falun Dafa promotional material that the group will use during its May 13 motorcade parade. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

by U.S.-based religious leader Li Hongzhi, and the group's global headquarters are located in Deerpark, New York. Falun Dafa's teachings pull from Taoist and Buddhist traditions, and the group's members seek to achieve spiritual enlightenment through meditation and emphasizing morality and cultivating virtue.

The Chinese government cracked down on Falun Dafa

in 1999, stating that the group is a "heretical organization that threatens social stability." Since then, thousands of its practitioners have reportedly been persecuted and subjected to multiple human rights violations in China. Today, Falun Dafa has believers in 70 countries, and membership numbers supposedly range from 40,000 to hundreds of thousands.

Navy awards \$45M for health clinic

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a \$45 million firm-fixed price contract May 10 to Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima, LLC, of Tamuning, Guam, for the construction of a medical and dental clinic at Marine Corps Base Guam.

The contract supports the Defense Policy Review Initiative and is funded by the Japanese government as part of the international agreement between the United States

and Japan.

"This...facility...will be operational in time to support the force flow of Marines from Okinawa to Guam," said NAVFAC Pacific Guam program management office director Will Boudra.

This new facility will include a Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Radiology, Laboratory, Logistics, Optometry, Occupational Health and Dental Departments. Work will be performed in Guam with an expected completion date of May 2023. (PR)

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-HSEM-091

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

(1) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 AT 4:00 PM

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-089

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"TWO (2) SEPARATE OFFICE SPACE ONE SITUATED ON GROUND FLOOR FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-090

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK (1 CIF ROTA) (1 CIF TINIAN) & PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
DPS COMMISSIONER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds
05/12/2021


Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

This is to give notice that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as the Responsible Entity under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C -Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for the Road Improvement Project on Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan. The activity is funded through theThe Community Development Block Grant -Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 & B-19-DV-69-0002.


The public may view the information and provide comments regarding the proposed activity by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>.

Written comments shall be submitted on or before May 27, 2021, no later than 4:00 p.m. Comments may be submitted from the following submission methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to (670)234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan. Attention: CDBG-DR Project Team.

/s/
Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI



Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866



PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.
**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS
05/12/2021**

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Isa Villa II MultiFamily/ Apartment Project -Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Gap Financing through the CDBG-DR Housing Program	Affordable Rental Housing	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Approximately \$6,000,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan, amined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **May 27, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202) 402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

PSS youth summit on Rota

The Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School began yesterday its two-day Youth Advisory Panel Summit. Held at the school campus, the YAP summit is now on its 11th year. Board of Education member Maisie B. Tenorio was one of the presenters/speakers during the summit, which was also attended by Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School principal D. Tanya King and BOE vice chair Herman Atalig. *(PR)*



Photo shows Youth Advisory Panel adviser Doralyn Barcinas, YAP president Chloe Yalung, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School principal D. Tanya King, and Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig. *RHI*



YAP Summit Cohort A participants poses after one of the in-classroom sessions. *RHI*



Student leaders of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School talk about the "Importance of Home Communication." *RHI*



Board of Education secretary/treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio poses with Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School principal D. Tanya King. *RHI*



Savannah Lynn Delos Santos was one of the speakers during yesterday's summit on Rota, hosted and held at Dr. Rita h. Inos Junior Senior High School. *RHI*

Soldiers, students team up to donate books to FSM

EWA BEACH, Hawaii—A group of off-duty U.S. Army soldiers in Hawaii have teamed up with a public school on Oahu, students in the school's Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit, and Habele, a non-profit founded by former U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, to send books to a school-based library in Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Staff at James Campbell High School and a group of Army Reservists enlisted the support of students at the high school's Navy JROTC detachment and Habele to collect used books that were sent to Kosrae school libraries.

Schools across FSM need books for their school-based libraries, which serve both students and members of the community at large.

"We were thrilled to collaborate with Campbell High School and Habele to get used library books..." said John Yoshimori of Aiea. "In my opinion we are providing reading opportunities to students in the American-affiliated Pacific and hopefully showing the... public that soldiers are human beings capable of planning and executing humanitarian activities also as well as com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Army soldiers with Pacific ties volunteer during their off-hours to gather books in Hawaii to be sent to the Federated States of Micronesia. From left, Albert Mangloña, Katoa Sailusi, Jordon Galvez and Valentino Sigrah.

Federated States of Micronesia's far-reaching alliance with the U.S. is cemented through a Compact of Free Association, or COFA, that defines defense and development ties between the nations.

The eastern most state of FSM, Kosrae, is home to fewer than 7,000 islanders, living on 40 square miles of land, with an average household income of just \$15,000. The isolated island is more than 300 miles from neighboring Pohnpei, home to the national capital. From offshore, the distinctive shape of Kosrae, densely covered with vegetation atop steep mountains, resembles the female form, earning the nickname "the sleeping lady." (PR)

bat operations!"

Over the last six months more than 70 boxes of books, totaling over 2,000 lbs, have been gathered by these and other Habele volunteers for public schools across Micronesia. The nonprofit receives requests from Micronesian schools in Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, then matches

them with offers from American schools and individuals looking to donate.

"Child development is the foundation for community and

economic development," said Neil Mellen of Habele. "All facets of human capital are formed by abilities developed early in life and we always

have more book requests from our partner schools than we can meet."

Once part of a U.S.-administered Trust Territory, today

TakeCare, FHP honor hospitals in CNMI, Guam

TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. and FHP Health Center celebrated National Hospital Week (May 9 - May 15) last Monday by presenting employees of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, Guam Regional Medical City, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Saipan with cakes to thank them for their hard work and service to the community's health and wellbeing.

According to the American Hospital Association, "National Hospital Week is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers and the innovative ways they are supporting the needs of their community members, especially during this pandemic." (PR)



TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. and FHP Health Center present a cake to employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Saipan. From left, Melanie Santos, TakeCare authorization coordinator/CS representative; Perlle Santos, CHCC chief financial officer; Nora Fejeran, TakeCare health plan manager; Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer; and Leilani Pangelinan, TakeCare administrative assistant/sales coordinator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHCC staff have 'expressed exhaustion'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was already quite busy before the COVID-19 pandemic but the pandemic just piled on more responsibilities on the shoulders of the CNMI's health care workers, so much so that many have not taken advantage of their vacation time.

With the pandemic dragging on for more than a year now, many are expressing exhaustion, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

When asked how her staff is doing, Muña said they are exhausted, but they are trying hard to get back to normal business so that staff can use their vacation hours. That includes bringing in vaccination teams from the U.S. to help with the vaccination sites.

A new team of vaccinators who will help with the vaccination campaign arrived on Saipan last week Thursday. They are from NuWest, a team of travelling nurses. They will be helping at the vaccination site at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and at the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the Commonwealth Health Center, while also helping

with the village outreach.

"We are trying to pull ourselves away from [vaccinations] and just do oversight. ... We would like to have a lot of focus on the hospital," said Muña.

According to her, there are over 900 staff that need to go on vacation or take their vacation leave. She said it'll be difficult to figure out how the hospital will be able to do that, but she knows the hospital staff deserve "wellness time."

"We're looking at ways to try to [do] that and take care of them, because at the end of the day, they've been taking care of all of us and now we're going to try to take care of them as well," said Muña.

The hospital oversees the Alternate Care Site in Susupe, the vaccination site at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, and the MCATS at the upper CHCC parking lot.

On top of those responsibilities, hospital staff oversees the swabbing and collection of specimens at the different quarantine sites, testing for all arriving passengers from Guam, charter flights that require to be tested before they leave the island, getting the vaccines to the community—all while doing their regular duties at the hospital.



TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. and FHP Health Center present a cake to employees of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. From left, Lucio "Al" Almira, TakeCare CSG administrator/controller; Arvin Lojo, TakeCare health plan administrator; Yukari Hechanova, GMHA assistant chief financial officer; Dr. Annie Bordallo, M.D., GMHA associate hospital administrator medical services; Rose Grino, R.N., FHP health care delivery administrator; and Maria Castro, TakeCare claims team lead.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. and FHP Health Center present a cake to employees of the Guam Regional Medical City. From left, Maria Castro, TakeCare claims team lead; Eric Plinske, GRMC vice president, corporate affairs; Derrick Lair Jr., GRMC ICU manager; Arvin Lojo, TakeCare health plan administrator; Lucio "Al" Almira, TakeCare CSG administrator/controller; Jennifer Cruz, GRMC chief of nursing operations; Dr. Beau Wielaard, GRMC chief of medical operations; Jodeen Mendiola, GRMC med-tele manager; and Clarence Palisoc, TakeCare marketing supervisor.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Declining US birth rate adds urgency to the need for smart immigration reform

The recent announcement that the U.S. birth rate slipped further during the COVID-19 pandemic didn't come as a surprise, but that didn't make it any less sobering. The report spotlights a complex intersection of issues, including insufficient financial support for families with young children, the social and career costs women must weigh when deciding to have a child (or two or more), the environmental impacts of human population growth, and national economics. Historically, nations with stagnant or shrinking populations also often face stagnant economies.

With a 4% decrease from 2019, last year was the sixth in a row that the birth rate fell; the pandemic just made it worse. The reasons include uncertainty among would-be parents about the future and about the possible effects of COVID-19 on a fetus, as well as reduced opportunities for reproduction because of social distancing and fear of intimate contact. One study found a general decline in sexual activity, so those knowing jokes last spring about a baby boom being the silver lining in the pandemic were off-base.

But other pre-pandemic factors are at play, too. Younger women reported in one survey that they were delaying or opting not to have children because they wanted more personal freedom and leisure time, did not have a partner with whom they wanted to share a child, or worried about the affordability of child care. Notably, deciding not to have children, or not to have as many, often means more success in careers for women, a patently unfair trade-off.

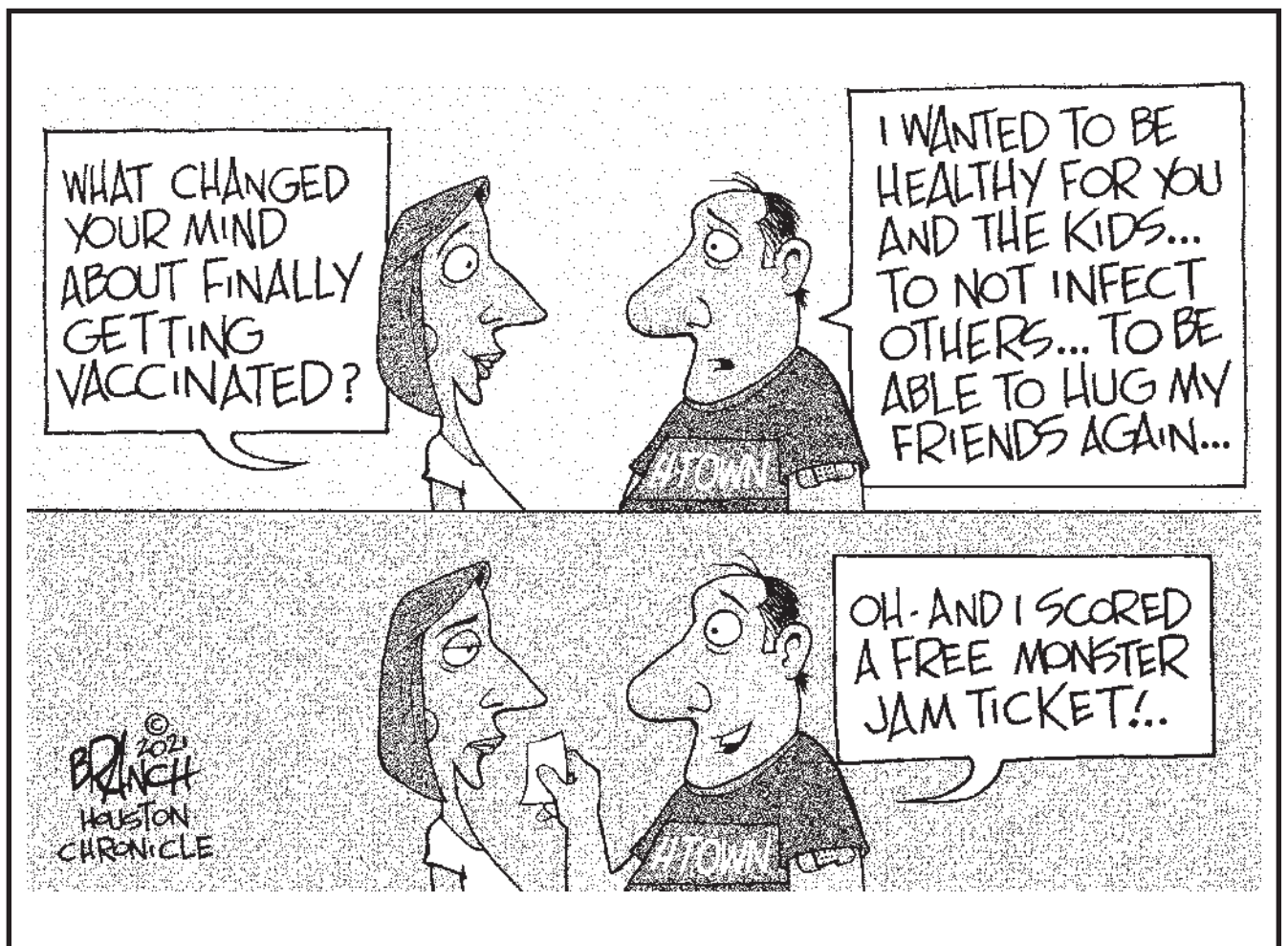
Overall, a combination of decreased births and immigration and increased death meant the U.S. population grew in the last decade by the second-lowest amount on record, behind the 1930s Great Depression years.

So what are the repercussions? Let's dispense first with the racist notion pushed by right-wing nationalists that white American women need to have more babies to counter some sort of global conspiracy by nonwhites to move to the U.S., have lots of kids and dilute our national identity. While white supremacy has coursed through the Americas since the first white Europeans arrived, in truth American culture has always been a simmering stew, its flavors and textures changing over time. That, in fact, has been one of the nation's enduring strengths.

But our economic growth and stability will require a larger future labor pool, even with advances in automation. In fact, an aging population creates more demands for health services, and it can have a trickle-down impact on other work as adult children opt out of the labor pool to care for their parents. An aging population also increases costs for safety net programs like Social Security and Medicare.

A clear source for expanding that labor pool is immigration. To meet that need, though, we must develop a smarter, more

See DECLINING on Next Page



Junk science puts even more babies at risk of abusive head trauma

A fractured skull. Broken ribs. Bleeding in the brain. The injuries suffered by abused children can be devastating.

The youngest and smallest are especially vulnerable. Too small to defend themselves, too young to speak up for themselves, they depend on physicians, among many others in the community, to be their voice and serve as their protectors.

The weight of determining whether a child's injuries are accidental or inflicted falls on the shoulders of dedicated pediatricians across the country, often working with multidisciplinary teams of physicians and other professionals. It's a gut-wrenching responsibility. Much is at stake—for parents, families and, especially, children.

The subspecialty of child abuse pediatricians was established a decade ago. These pediatricians have special training and expertise in identifying, diagnosing and treating injuries. They work diligently to understand whether those injuries are the result of abuse or an accident or disease. Evidence-based research and policies guide these pediatricians in this life-saving work.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently updated its policy on abusive head trauma, once referred to as shaken baby syndrome, to incorporate a growing body of science on how to diagnose this type of abuse—and when to rule it out.

However, diagnosing abusive head trauma places child abuse pediatricians in the crosshairs of defense attorneys who have increasingly pushed pseudo-scientific theories that have no basis in medical research. Medical science, itself, is now on trial.

Pseudo-experts have falsely claimed that a debate is raging in the medical community about whether abusive head trauma is a real diagnosis. Let me be clear: There is no controversy.

A 2016 study of doctors at 10 leading U.S. children's hospitals found the vast majority of physicians—93%—agreed that AHT is a valid diagnosis. And a 2018 consensus statement, supported by eight medical societies representing subspecialists in a number of countries, including Norway, Sweden and Japan, affirmed that AHT is scientifically non-controversial and recognized throughout the world.

Creating confusion about what constitutes abusive head trauma could discourage people from coming forward when they suspect abuse. And it puts vulnerable kids who cannot advocate for themselves at terrible risk. About five children die every day in the U.S. as a result of abuse and neglect.

In documented cases of abusive head trauma, nearly one-fourth of babies under 1 died. Almost 70% of survivors have

By DR. SUZANNE HANEY

Tribune News Service

Dr. Suzanne Haney is the chairperson of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

permanent brain injury, including cerebral palsy, seizures, intellectual disabilities, behavioral problems and learning disabilities.

It's appalling that criminal defense attorneys have portrayed child abuse specialists as zealots who see abuse in every child they evaluate. That's no more true than saying that infectious disease experts are motivated to diagnose coronavirus where none exists.

When children with suspicious injuries are rushed through their doors, pediatricians seek to understand what happened. They actively search for rare disorders and other possible explanations. According to one study, child abuse pediatricians did not find abuse in 44 percent of the cases referred to them.

The diagnosis is based on a physical exam; medical tests; imaging, including X-rays and CT scans; health history; and an explanation of how the injury happened. It often is made in consultation with a medical team.

And to clear up a misconception: In cases of suspected abuse, child protective services and the court system make the final decision on whether to remove a child from the home.

Pediatricians greatly respect the bond between parents and their children. Many of us are parents ourselves. We know that raising children is hard and that the vast majority of parents want what's best for their children.

The overriding goal is to get families and other caregivers—baby sitters, day care providers, teachers and others—the support they need so we can prevent child abuse.

That's why the AAP supports paid family leave, home visitation services for new parents, high-quality child care and education programs, and efforts to educate caregivers about how to soothe an infant and deal with the frustration of a crying baby. We also encourage our members to talk to caregivers about the dangers of shaking or striking babies.

Pediatricians' No. 1 job is to make sure every child in our care is healthy and safe. Our heartfelt desire to protect them is what motivates us to do this work every day.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

5 things moms gained during the pandemic—and should refuse to give up

It has been a hellish year for moms. While our kids have been out of school due to the pandemic, many of us who have been fortunate enough to keep our jobs have been expected to work while providing round-the-clock child care. Unsurprisingly, more than 2.4 million women left the labor force between February 2020 and February 2021. Thanks to The New York Times, we now have a dedicated phone line so we can call in and scream.

But there's a way to make a bad situation work for us. Here are five gains mothers have made during the pandemic that they should refuse to give up when it's over.

No-visitor policies in hospitals after childbirth

As new mothers are recovering from a major medical event, they also have to feed their babies every couple of hours, often with the added learning curve and challenges that come with breastfeeding. One night after my daughter was born in March, I stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to care for her. When a hospital technician woke me a few minutes after I finally got to sleep to take my blood pressure, I was so confused that she asked whether I speak English. (I am a professor of communication.)

While moms should be allowed to have a support person with them, this is not a time when moms should also feel obligated to host their extended families. Thanks to hospital prohibitions on guests during the pandemic, many of us were liberated from this social pressure. Hospitals shouldn't roll it back. While well-meaning friends and family might be excited to meet the baby, the best thing anyone can do for a newborn is let Mom take care of herself so she can be well enough to meet her child's constant needs.

Options for pregnant people to work largely or entirely from home

Early reports suggest that once people began staying home during the pandemic, the number of babies born prematurely

declined—in some places significantly. That's outstanding, because babies who are born early—particularly before 32 weeks—face the prospect of very serious health problems or even death. While researchers are still figuring out why pregnant people who stayed home seem to have had healthier, longer pregnancies (more rest? avoidance of pollution and pathogens?), one thing has become clear: Employers should allow expectant workers to work from home as much as possible.

More relaxed dress codes and expectations

Women are expected to invest far more in their appearances than men. According to a 2014 survey, they spend almost two hours more each week than men on things like hairstyling and makeup application. That's all time we're not bonding with our children—or getting much-needed rest. There's a reason we do it: We know people judge us more than they do men on our appearance. Over the past year, we stopped paying this tax a bit as dress standards, thanks to Zoom, became more relaxed. When we go back to our workplaces, our co-workers should keep paying more attention to what we contribute than to how we look—and that goes for all of us.

Flexible schedules for all parents

During the pandemic, many parents worked some early morning hours or late at night (or both) in order to share child care responsibilities with their partners. Of course, this also requires the ability to work remotely.

Employers must keep these options available for moms and dads in the After Times. Offering them to moms alone won't do the trick, because one of the biggest challenges women in particular face is that, after working all day, we're expected to do what the sociologist Arlie Hochschild called the “second shift.” According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, when both spouses work full time, mothers take on more than 60% of the child care and more than 72% of the housework. In order for fathers to start pulling their weight, they need job flexibility every bit as much

By **KARA ALAIMO**
Bloomberg Opinion



Kara Alaimo is an associate professor of public relations at Hofstra University and author of *Pitch, Tweet, or Engage on the Street: How to Practice Global Public Relations and Strategic Communication*. She previously served in the Obama administration.

as we do.

Reasonable number of work hours

While many workers have been putting in more hours at work during the pandemic (when you're working from home, there isn't a clear start and end to the workday), we've also enjoyed more time with our families. Americans devoted 35% of the time we've saved commuting to actual work, according to the Becker Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago. But that also means people have in general had a lot more time for things such as leisure and child care (though I don't know too many parents who have been taking it easy). We won't want to give these things up when we return to the office. And employers should take note: As they re-evaluate their priorities, 40% of employees are thinking about leaving their jobs this year, research by Microsoft has found.

To retain quality people, employers will have to provide room for better work-life balance. That means capping hours at 40 per week—and also giving people who need them options for part-time work at reduced pay. These policies must apply to fathers, too, so we can all do our fair share of the labor in our families and homes. One of the big reasons women do so much more domestic work now is because people who “overwork”—or put in more than 50 hours per week—are paid a big premium, and men tend to take the jobs requiring the overwork.

What moms need this Mother's Day isn't flowers or chocolate: It's a life that doesn't necessitate a dedicated scream-in line. While the pandemic has brought many of us to the brink of our sanity, it has also forced many organizations to give moms long-overdue concessions. We must refuse to give them back.

Let's unite to cut military spending

By **MEDEA BENJAMIN** and **MARCY WINOGRAD**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Many progressives have been pleasantly surprised by President Joe Biden's sweeping proposals to repair the United States' failing infrastructure, expand health care coverage and address the climate crisis. Some have suggested that one way to pay for such things would be to cut the military budget, especially since Biden has announced that he is ending U.S. involvement in the Afghan war.

But hopes for a “peace dividend” were dashed when Biden came out in April with a proposed military budget of \$753 billion—a \$13 billion increase to Trump's already gargantuan sum and one that includes more than \$30 billion for new nuclear weapons.

Congressional progressives have long complained about runaway military spending. In 2020, 93 members in the House and 23 in the Senate voted to cut the Pentagon budget by 10% and invest those funds in critical human needs. A House Spending Reduction Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), emerged with 22 members on board, including all four members of the “Squad” but also more moderate or mainstream Democrats.

Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, one of the largest caucuses in Congress with almost 100 members, also

want reductions in the military budget.

“We're in the midst of a crisis that has left millions of families unable to afford food, rent and bills,” Caucus Chair Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) told *The Nation* magazine. “But at the same time, we're dumping billions of dollars into a bloated Pentagon budget. Don't increase defense spending. Cut it—and invest that money into our communities.”

Biden's military and non-military budget resolution, a package deal, is expected to hit the floor in June or July. If Republicans refuse to support it, the president would need every Democrat in the Senate and almost all Democrats in the House to win approval.

In the House, Biden needs at least 212 of the 218 Democratic seats (allowing for current vacancies in both parties. But what if at least seven members of the House voted no—or even just threatened to put their foot down—because the budget calls for increased military spending and a plan to “modernize” U.S. nuclear weapons and maintain 800 overseas bases?

Now is the time for congressional progressives like the Squad—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) and Ayanna Presley (D-Mass.)—to unite with Jayapal, Lee, Pocan and others in the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, to stand as a block against a bloated military budget.

During a pandemic, it makes no sense to approve a military budget that is 95 times the budget of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. The billions saved from “right-sizing” the Pentagon could also provide critical funds for addressing the climate crisis.

And it would be applauded by the Democrats' base. Polls show that 70% of Democrats favor not just cutting nuclear weapons, but actually eliminating them. This is in line with the newly passed U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which requires nuclear states to pursue disarmament to avoid a catastrophic accident or intentional nuclear holocaust.

Will progressives in Congress play hardball to threaten Biden's entire budget by insisting he reduce military spending and scrap plans for a new nuclear arsenal? Will they have the courage to unite behind such a noble cause as saving the planet from an existential nuclear threat?

Odds will improve if their constituents flood them with messages insisting that now is the time to finally put an end to the cycle of exponential military spending and invest, instead, in the needs of the people.

Medea Benjamin is the co-founder of CODEPINK for Peace. Marcy Winograd of Progressive Democrats of America is a co-ordinator for CODEPINKCONGRESS, where she spearheads Capitol Hill calling parties to mobilize votes for peace. This column was produced for The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

DECLINING

From Page 8

flexible and more generous federal immigration policy than the dysfunctional system Congress has let languish for far too long.

But what should it be? For decades U.S. policy has prioritized family reunification and employment-based immigration, which must remain key to future immigration policies. Studies have found that immigrants achieve more and integrate into society faster if they have family ties and family






support. The nation also needs job-based immigration, but crafted in such a way that it does not undermine employment for existing Americans or undercut wages and benefits. This is where things get thorny.

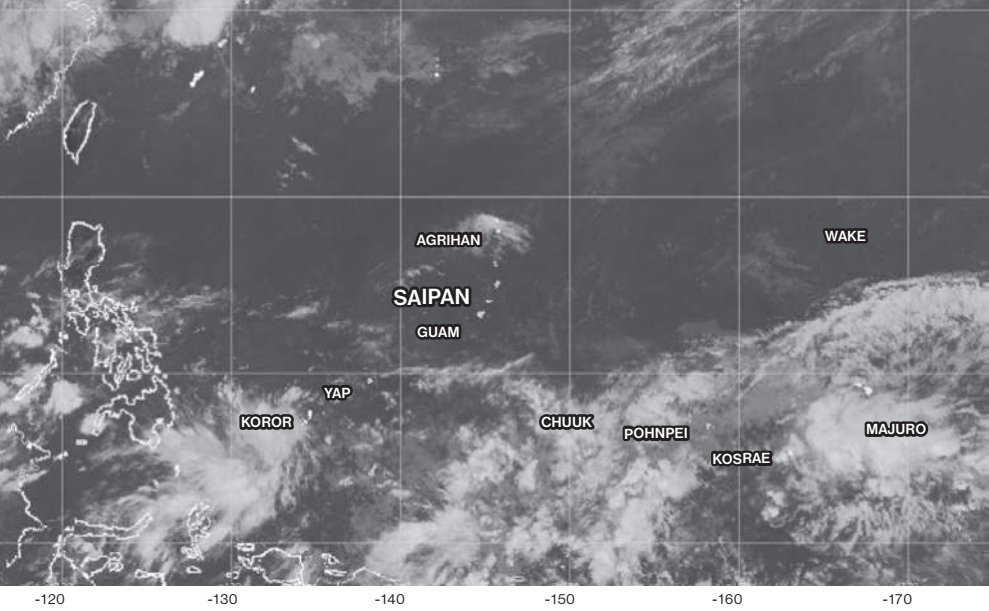
The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan pro-immigration think tank, just issued a report (“Rethinking the U.S. Legal Immigration System: A Policy Road Map”) that lays out suggestions for reimagining employment-based visas to address the need for seasonal and short-term workers, clear paths for “the best and brightest in their fields,” and make it easier for noncitizen workers to move among employers rather than being tied to

the one that sponsored their visa. Other proposals, such as the nonpartisan Economic Innovations Group's idea for site-based visas to shore up struggling communities in the nation's interior, also deserve consideration.

We don't want to get too prescriptive at this juncture, but it is imperative that Congress ends its dismaying inability to come up with a reasonable comprehensive immigration reform. Immigration not only is our history, but with the birth rate steadily declining, it is vital to our future.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:15 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite and model guidance indicates partly cloudy skies and isolated light showers will prevail across all of the Marianas the rest of today. A subtle trade-wind trough may increase showers slightly overnight tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	89 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 72 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:58 AM	7:01 PM	-
Thursday	6:39 AM	7:51 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:42 PM	-
Saturday	8:09 AM	9:34 PM	-
Sunday	8:59 AM	10:26 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	67 58 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	82 70 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82 75 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83 72 °F	
London	Mostly Sunny	61 45 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	69 55 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	60 44 °F	
Miami	Sunny	85 71 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	58 48 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	74 63 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	61 41 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	71 53 °F	
Rome	Sunny	75 54 °F	
Salem	Sunny	73 45 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	65 51 °F	
Seoul	Cloudy	73 55 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	75 61 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	67 48 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:05 AM	Low Tide	1.12	
7:13 AM	High Tide	1.87	
2:22 PM	Low Tide	0.08	
9:11 PM	High Tide	1.87	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
				1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
				1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205 11:00 11:15 Temporarily Unavailable
				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2102 8:30 8:45 Daily
				2103 9:30 9:45 Daily
				2104 10:30 10:45 Daily
				2105 11:30 11:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2106 12:30 12:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2107 13:30 13:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2108 14:30 14:45 Daily
				2109 15:30 15:45 Daily
				2110 16:30 16:45 Daily
				2111 17:30 17:45 Daily
				2112 18:30 18:45 Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

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Business

Perks for the vaccinated at Naked Fish

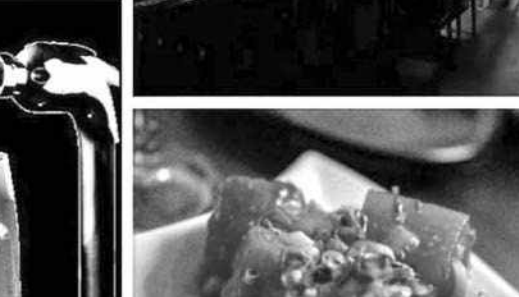
By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipan.com
CORRESPONDENT

Naked Fish located in Garapan is extending perks to people who have already completed their vaccine regimen. For the whole month of May, Saipan's favorite local bar and grill, in cooperation with Mar-Pac Distributors Inc., will run a buy-one, take-one promotion on any purchase of Budweiser, BudLight, Michelob Ultra, and Deep Eddy Vodka drinks. To avail of this, just present your COVID-19 vaccination card.

According to Naked Fish general manager Joe Guerre-

ro, people have begun to avail of this promo. "As a small business, I felt compelled to thank those who have been brave and received this important vaccination. More importantly, I aim to build awareness about vaccination and its benefits by providing this incentive," he said.

"According to our public health officials, we need to vaccinate at least 80 to 90% of our population to achieve herd immunity. Once we have this, we will be able to safely reopen our tourism market which is our only source of revenue to pay for public health, public safety, educa-



CONTINUED PHOTO

The Naked Fish Bar promotion for the vaccinated will run until May 31.

Treasury to start paying out \$350B in state and local aid

The Treasury Department on Monday launched its \$350 billion program to distribute aid to state and local governments, giving the U.S. economy an added boost as President Joe Biden sought to assure the country that stronger growth is coming.

The aid is part of Biden's larger \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that became law in March. Administration officials said payments could begin to go out in the coming days to eligible governments, allowing state, local, territorial and tribal officials to offset the economic damage from the coronavirus pandemic. The announcement came after the government reported Friday that just 266,000 jobs were added in April—a miss that the president felt obligated to address from the White House on Monday.

"We're moving in the right direction," Biden said. "Our economic plan is working. I never said—and no serious analyst ever suggested—that climbing out of the deep, deep hole our economy was in would be simple, easy, immediate or perfectly steady."

Republican lawmakers have suggested that his relief package, with its extra unemployment benefits, has hurt hiring because people can earn more money by staying at home than working. But Biden emphasized that much of the money is still being disbursed and noted the new portal for state and

local government aid.

"The money we're going to be distributing now is going to make it possible for an awful lot of educators, first responders, sanitation workers to go back to work," he said.

The president is pushing even more ambitious government spending, proposing a combined \$4 trillion of investments in infrastructure, families and education to be funded by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy. Some of that funding would build on the child tax credits and state and local government money that were part of the relief package.

Guidance from the Treasury Department listed broad categories for spending the aid. State and local governments can use the money for public health expenses. They can also offset harm from the downturn to workers, small businesses and affected industries. Money can replace lost public sector revenues. Essential workers can qualify for premium pay, and investments can be made in water, sewer and broadband internet.

But Treasury has also placed restrictions. Officials said the funds should not be used by state and local governments to cut taxes, pay down debt or bolster reserve funds.

The funding could provide a jolt of growth after the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 6.1% in April, a sign of

how difficult it can be to restart an economy despite an unprecedented degree of federal assistance. Labor Department figures show that state and local governments are still down roughly 1.3 million jobs since the pandemic began more than a year ago.

The aid to state and local governments has largely been pushed by Democrats, who remember how these vital sectors of the economy weighed down the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis and caused relatively modest growth. Republican lawmakers generally opposed the aid because they said it would encourage wasteful spending and noted that state tax revenues had generally rebounded from the downturn.

"We all know that one of the things that held back the recovery the most after the Great Recession was the contraction of state and local government," said Gene Sperling, who is overseeing aid distribution for the White House. "This is responding to the lessons of the past in a powerful way."

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with half coming this month and the rest a year from now. States that saw their unemployment rates jump by 2 percentage points relative to February 2020 will get their money in a single payment, while the rest will receive their funding in two tranches. (AP)

tion, etc. Our entire community needs to help each other by getting vaccinated," he added.

Guerrero said that getting vaccinated is more about other than oneself. "Our local cul-

FBI names pipeline cyberattackers as company promises return

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hit by a cyberattack, the operator of a major U.S. fuel pipeline said Monday it hopes to have services mostly restored by the end of the week as the FBI and administration officials identified the culprits as a gang of criminal hackers.

Colonial Pipeline, which delivers about 45% of the fuel consumed on the East Coast, halted operations last week after revealing a ransomware attack that it said had affected some of its systems. On Monday, U.S. officials sought to soothe concerns about price spikes or damage to the economy by stressing that the fuel supply had so far not been disrupted, and the company said it was working toward "substantially restoring operational service" by the weekend.

Nonetheless, the attack underscored the vulnerabilities of the nation's energy sector and other critical industries whose infrastructure is largely privately owned. Ransomware attacks are typically carried out by criminal hackers who scramble data, paralyzing victim networks, and demand large payments to decrypt it.

The Colonial attack was a potent reminder of the real-world implications of the burgeoning threat. Even as the Biden administration works to confront organized hacking campaigns sponsored by foreign governments, it must still contend with

difficult-to-prevent attacks from cybercriminals.

"We need to invest to safeguard our critical infrastructure," President Joe Biden said Monday. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the attack "tells you how utterly vulnerable we are" to cyberattacks on U.S. infrastructure.

The attack came as the administration, still grappling with its response to massive breaches by Russia of federal agencies and private corporations, works on an executive order aimed at bolstering cybersecurity defenses. The Justice Department, meanwhile, has formed a ransomware task force designed for situations just like Colonial Pipeline, and the Energy Department on April 20 announced a 100-day initiative focused on protecting energy infrastructure from cyber threats. Similar actions are planned for other critical industries, such as water and natural gas.

Despite that, the challenge facing the government and the private sector remains immense.

In this case, the FBI publicly assigned blame Monday by saying the criminal syndicate whose ransomware was used in the attack is named DarkSide. The group's members are Russian speakers, and the syndicate's malware is coded not to attack networks using Russian-language keyboards.

ture is deeply rooted in making sacrifices for those we love. At this time, getting vaccinated is perhaps the greatest sacrifice one can make," he said.

"It is important for Naked Fish to help with COVID-19 prevention because I have a total of nine staff who rely on their work at Naked Fish to provide for their families' needs. We started by mandating that all employees and new hires be vaccinated," he added.

Naked Fish Bar & Grill is located along Micro Beach Road in Garapan. They are open Monday to Wednesday from 5pm to 9pm from Thursday to Saturday from 5pm to 11pm or later. Reservations are recommended but not required. For more information, call (670) 235-3474 or via FaceBook: @NakedFish-Saipan or Instagram: @nakedfish670.

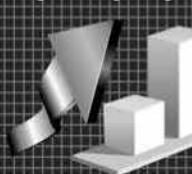
Anne Neuberger, the White House deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technology, said at a briefing that the group has been on the FBI's radar for months. She said its business model is to demand ransom payments from victims and then split the proceeds with the ransomware developers, relying on what she said was a "new and very troubling variant."

She declined to say if Colonial Pipeline had paid any ransom, and the company has not given any indication of that one way or the other. Though the FBI has historically discouraged victims from making payments for fear of promoting additional attacks, she acknowledged "the very difficult" situation that victims face and said the administration needs to look "thoughtfully at this area" of how best to deter ransomware.

"Given the rise in ransomware, that is one area we're definitely looking at now to say, 'What should be the government's approach to ransomware actors and to ransoms overall?'"

Speaking later in the day at a conference on national security, Neuberger said the administration was committed to leveraging the government's massive buying power to ensure that software makers make their products less vulnerable to hackers.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P

4,166.00

-17.50

-0.42%

DOW

34,592.00

-76.00

-0.22%

NASDAQ

13,269.00

-87.75

-0.66%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

		Hong Kong Dollar	7.77	Russian Ruble	74.33
Australian Dollar	1.28	Indian Rupee	73.46	Singapore Dollar	1.33
British Pound	0.708	Japanese Yen	108.80	South Korean Won	1,116.86
Canadian Dollar	1.21	Malaysian Ringgit	4.11	Swiss Franc	0.9013
Chinese Yuan	6.42	New Zealand Dollar	1.37	Taiwan Dollar	27.77
Euro	0.82	Philippine Peso	47.89	Thailand Baht	31.11

Nation

Pfizer COVID-19 shot expanded to US children as young as 12

U.S. regulators on Monday expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12, offering a way to protect the nation's adolescents before they head back to school in the fall and paving the way for them to return to more normal activities.

Shots could begin as soon as Thursday, after a federal vaccine advisory committee issues recommendations for using the two-dose vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds. An announcement is expected Wednesday.

Most COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been authorized for adults. Pfizer's vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and Canada recently became the first to expand use to 12 and up. Parents, school administrators and public health officials elsewhere have eagerly awaited approval for the shot to be made available to more kids.

"This is a watershed moment in our ability to fight back the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president who's also a pediatrician, told The Associated Press.

The Food and Drug Administration declared that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and offers strong protection for younger teens based on testing of more than 2,000 U.S. volunteers ages 12 to 15. The agency noted there were no cases of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated adolescents compared with 16 among kids given dummy shots. More intriguing, researchers found the kids developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies



AP
This Jan. 24, 2021, file photo shows a vial of the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19 in Seattle.

Pfizer is not the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Moderna recently said preliminary results from its study in 12- to 17-year-olds show strong protection and no serious side effects. Another U.S. company, Novavax, has a COVID-19 vaccine in late-stage development and just began a study in 12- to 17-year-olds.

Next up is testing whether the vaccine works for even younger children. Both Pfizer and Moderna have begun U.S. studies in children ages 6 months to 11 years. Those studies explore whether babies, preschoolers and elementary-age kids will need different doses than teens and adults. Gruber said Pfizer expects its first results in the fall. (AP)

than earlier studies measured in young adults.

The younger teens received the same vaccine dosage as adults and had the same side effects, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal a revved-up immune system, especially after the second dose.

Pfizer's testing in adolescents "met our rigorous standards," FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. "Having a vaccine authorized for a younger population is a critical step in continuing to lessen the immense public health burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech recently requested similar authorization in the European Union, with other countries to follow.

The latest news is welcome for U.S. families struggling to decide what activities are safe to resume when the youngest family members remain unvaccinated.

"I can't feel totally comfortable because my boys aren't vaccinated," said Carrie Vittitoe, a substitute teacher and freelance writer in Louisville, Kentucky, who is fully vaccinated, as are her husband and 17-year-old daughter.

The FDA decision means

her 13-year-old son soon could be eligible, leaving only her 11-year-old son unvaccinated. The family has not yet resumed going to church, and summer vacation will be a road trip so they do not have to get on a plane.

"We can't really go back to normal because two-fifths of our family don't have protection," Vittitoe said.

President Joe Biden said Monday's decision marked another important step in the nation's march back to regular life.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is growing, and today it got a little brighter," Biden said in a statement.

Watchdog says Capitol Police deficient at monitoring threats

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Capitol Police force was hobbled by inadequate intelligence gathering ahead of the Jan. 6 siege, the department's watchdog told Congress on Monday, alarming lawmakers who are concerned for their own safety amid rising threats against members of Congress.

Capitol Police Inspector General Michael Bolton testified in the first of three House hearings this week on what went wrong during the Jan. 6 insurrection. Lawmakers are investigating the riots as they contemplate overhauling security, and Bolton has recommended that the Capitol Police create a new stand-alone division that would gather intelligence about threats and protect members similar to the way the U.S. Secret Service protects the president.

Many lawmakers are receiving threats and worry for their safety after the U.S. Capitol was so easily breached on

Jan. 6 by supporters of then-President Donald Trump who wanted to overturn the election. The rioters were hunting for lawmakers, calling out House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and then-Vice President Mike Pence by name as they roamed the building and members fled the House and Senate. In a statement Friday, the Capitol Police said that there has been a 107% increase in threats against members of Congress this year compared to 2020 and "provided the unique threat environment we currently live in, the Department is confident the number of cases will continue to increase."

A new inspector general report, one of several Bolton is preparing in response to the insurrection, said the department "has experienced issues" because of the increase in threats over the last five years and recommended the force hire more agents who are ded-

icated to assessing threats.

Bolton said there were multiple deficiencies that led to a lack of communication and guidance ahead of the siege. He said the department's guidance on counterintelligence was "outdated or vague"—some so ancient that it referred to BlackBerry communication devices, which are now rarely used.

"A stand-alone entity, with a defined mission dedicated to countersurveillance activities in support of protecting the Congressional Community, would improve the Department's ability to identify and disrupt individuals or groups intent on engaging in illegal activity directed at the Congressional Community and its legislative process," the report says, according to a summary released by the House Administration Committee ahead of the hearing. Bolton has not released the full report.

Bolton told the panel that

the Capitol Police is in the process of opening up two regional offices so it can better protect lawmakers at home. The department confirmed that on Monday, saying they will be opening up offices in San Francisco and Tampa, Florida.

Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis, the top Republican on the committee, said he hopes they open up more offices around the country and prosecute more people who are making the threats. He noted that he has received threats himself—a man was arrested in 2019 for threatening to shoot him.

"So I know firsthand that these threats are real, and that the people making these threats intend to act on them," Davis said. "I do believe a truly more aggressive enforcement stance, more arrests and more prosecutions of those who make violent threats and intend to carry them out would be a very strong deterrent."

With \$76B surplus, California proposes rebates for millions

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—Aided by an astonishing nearly \$76 billion budget surplus, California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday proposed tax rebates of up to \$1,100 for millions of households and more than \$7 billion to help people affected by the pandemic cover rent and utilities.

It was Newsom's first in a weeklong roll out of pandemic recovery proposals totaling \$100 billion, which could boost his political fortunes as he faces a likely recall election later this year. His opponents accused him of pandering and said the state would be better served by broader tax reforms.

"Direct stimulus checks going into people's pockets and direct relief—that's meaningful," Newsom said from a community organization in a disadvantaged Oakland neighborhood.

Under his plan, roughly 11 million low- and middle-income Californians would see direct, one-time payments. Taxpayers making between \$30,000 and \$75,000 a year would get a \$600 payment. Households making up to \$75,000 with at least one child would get an extra \$500 payment. It builds on an earlier payments to the lowest-income Californians and immigrants who pay taxes but did not get federal stimulus payments, including those living in the country illegally.

The projected \$75.7 billion

budget surplus is largely due to taxes paid by rich Californians who generally did well during the pandemic, and marks a major turnaround after officials last year said they feared a deficit of more than \$50 billion. Officials from the state Department of Finance said multiple rounds of federal coronavirus bills boosted the state's budget by putting money back into the economy. The stock market also did well, helping California's tax collections. The state relies heavily on income taxes from the wealthiest people.

The state will also get \$27 billion from the latest federal coronavirus spending plan, the U.S. Treasury Department announced Monday.

Under Newsom's plan, the direct payments would total an estimated \$8.1 billion, said H.D. Palmer, a finance spokesman. The proposal also includes \$5.2 billion to help with back rent and future payments and \$2 billion for overdue utility bills for people who fell behind during the pandemic, though Newsom's office provided few details.

A law passed by voters in the 1970s requires the state to give some money back to taxpayers if the surplus hits a certain limit. The state estimates it will be \$16 billion over that threshold. Newsom does not have to act immediately, but is choosing to do tax rebates now, Palmer said.

Asia

1.4B but no more?

BEIJING (AP)—China's population growth is falling closer to zero, government data showed Tuesday, adding to strains on an aging society with a shrinking workforce as fewer couples have children.

The population rose by 72 million over the past 10 years to 1.411 billion in 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics announced after a once-a-decade census. It said annual growth averaged 0.53%, down by 0.04% from the previous decade.

Chinese leaders have enforced birth limits since 1980 to restrain population growth but worry the number of working-age people is falling too fast, disrupting efforts to create a prosperous economy. They have eased birth limits, but couples are put off by high costs, cramped housing and job discrimination faced by mothers.

Reflecting the issue's sensitivity, the statistics agency took the unusual step last month of announcing the population grew in 2020 but gave no total. That looked like an effort to calm companies and investors after The Financial Times reported the census might have

found a surprise decline.

China, along with Thailand and some other developing Asian countries that are aging fast, faces what economists call the challenge of whether it can grow rich before it grows old.

China's working age population of people aged 15 to 59 is declining after hitting a 2011 peak of 925 million. That is boosting wages as companies compete for workers. But it might hamper efforts to develop new industries and self-sustaining economic growth based on consumer spending instead of trade and investment.

Thursday's announcement gave no details of births last year, but earlier data showed the annual number falling since 2016.

"We are more concerned about the fast decline in the working-age population," said Lu Jiehua, a professor of population studies at Peking University.

The working-age population was three-quarters of the total in 2011 but will fall to just above half by 2050, according to Lu. The Ministry of Labor and Social Security said in 2016 that group might shrink

to 700 million by then.

"If the population gets too old, it will be impossible to solve the problem through immigration," said Lu. "It needs to be dealt with at an early stage."

Young couples who might want to have a child face daunting challenges. Many share crowded apartments with their parents. Child care is expensive and maternity leave short. Most single mothers are excluded from medical insurance and social welfare payments. Some women worry giving birth could hurt their careers.

"First, at the interview, if you are married and childless, they may ask, do you have plans to have a kid?" said He Yiwei, who is preparing to return from the United States after obtaining a master's degree.

"And then when you have a kid, you take pregnancy leave, but will you still have this position after you take the leave?" said He. "Relative to men, when it comes to work, women have to sacrifice more."

Japan, Germany and some other rich countries face the same challenge of supporting aging populations with fewer workers. But they can draw on decades of investment in factories, technology and foreign assets.

» **China's population growth closer to zero**

100 days in power, Myanmar junta holds pretense of control

BANGKOK (AP)—After Myanmar's military seized power by ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, they couldn't even make the trains run on time: State railway workers were among the earliest organized opponents of the February takeover, and they went on strike.

Health workers who founded the civil disobedience movement against military rule stopped staffing government medical facilities. Many civil servants were no-shows at work, along with employees of government and private banks. Universities became hotbeds of resistance, and in recent weeks, education at the primary and secondary levels has begun to collapse as teachers, students and parents boycott state schools.

One hundred days after their takeover, Myanmar's ruling generals maintain just the pretense of control. The illusion is sustained mainly by its partially successful efforts to shut down independent media and to keep the streets clear of large demonstrations by employing lethal force. More than 750 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces, according to detailed independent tallies.

"The junta might like people to think that things are going back to normal because they are not killing as many people as they were before and there weren't as many people on the streets as before, but... the feeling we are getting from talking to people on the ground is that definitely the resistance has not yet subsided," said Thin Lei Win, a journalist now based in Rome who helped found the Myanmar Now online news service in 2015.

She says the main change is that dissent is no longer as visible as in the early days of the protests—before security forces began using live ammunition—when marches and rallies in major cities and towns could easily draw tens of thousands of people.

At the same time, said David Mathieson, an independent analyst who has been working on Myanmar issues for over 20 years, "Because of the very violent pacification of those protests, a lot of people are willing to become more violent."

"We are already starting to see signs of that. And with the right training, the right leadership and the right resources, what Myanmar could experience is an incredibly nasty

destructive, internal armed conflict in multiple locations in urban areas."

Meanwhile, the junta also faces a growing military challenge in the always restive border regions where ethnic minority groups exercise political power and maintain guerrilla armies. Two of the more battle-hardened groups, the Kachin in the north and the Karen in the east, have declared their support for the protest movement and stepped up their fighting, despite the government military, known as the Tatmadaw, hitting back with greater firepower, including airstrikes.

Even a month ago, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet was describing the situation as grim, saying Myanmar's "economy, education and health infrastructure have been brought to the brink of collapse, leaving millions of Myanmar people without livelihood, basic services and, increasingly, food security."

It was not surprising that The Economist magazine, in an April cover story, labeled Myanmar "Asia's next failed state" and opined it was heading in the direction of Afghanistan.

World

UN council meets on Jerusalem violence, considers a statement

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council held emergency consultations Monday on escalating violence in east Jerusalem and was considering a proposed statement calling on Israel to cease evictions and calling for "restraint" and respect for "the historic status quo at the holy sites."

Ireland's U.N. ambassador, Geraldine Byrne Nason, who joined in calling for the emergency meeting, said that "the Security Council should urgently speak out, and we hope that it will be able to do so today."

Council diplomats said all 15 members expressed concern at the clashes and rising violence but the United States, Israel's closest ally, said a statement might not be useful at this time.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price, speaking to reporters in Washington, said the Biden administration wants to ensure that anything from the Security Council "be that statements or anything else—don't escalate tensions. That's our overriding priority."

The U.S. agreed to have council experts discuss the statement after all other members said the U.N.'s most powerful body must react, the council diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because consultations were private. But the U.S. was still wary late Monday afternoon, they said.

The draft statement would express the Security Council's



A Palestinian man runs away from tear gas during clashes with Israeli security forces in front of the Dome of the Rock Mosque at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City Monday, May 10, 2021.

"grave concern" at escalating tensions and violence in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, and "serious concern" over the possible evictions of Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods in east Jerusalem, "many of whom have lived in their homes for generations."

There have been weeks of mounting tensions and almost nightly clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops in the Old City of Jerusalem during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, already a time of heightened religious sensitivities.

Most recently, the tensions have been fueled by the planned eviction of dozens of Palestinians from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of east Jerusalem where Israeli settlers have waged a lengthy legal battle to take over properties.

The proposed statement would call on Israel "to cease settlement activities, demolitions and evictions, including in east Jerusalem in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law" and refrain from unilateral steps "that exacerbate tensions and undermine the viability of the two-state solution."

It would express deep worry about daily clashes, especially in and around Jerusalem's holy sites which have led to many injuries and would call for restraint and "refraining from provocative actions and rhetoric."

Calling for respect for the historic status of Jerusalem's holy sites, the draft would also underscore "that Muslim worshippers at the holy sites must be allowed to worship in peace, free from violence, threats and provocations."

Qatar ruler in Saudi Arabia for first time since rift eased

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Qatar's ruling emir visited Saudi Arabia on Monday for the first time since signing a declaration with the kingdom and other Arab Gulf states to ease a years-long rift and end an embargo that had frayed ties among important U.S. allies and security partners.

Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani was greeted at the airport by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, according to Saudi and Qatari state-run media.

The meeting highlights how ties between the neighbors are improving following a decision earlier this year by Saudi Arabia to end its more than three-year-long embargo of the tiny and wealthy Gulf state. It also signals a Saudi reset in foreign policy as a new administration

led by President Joe Biden reassess U.S.-Saudi ties.

Qatar's emir was last in Saudi Arabia for a high-level Gulf Arab summit that took place in January and which concluded with a declaration to ease the rift. It was his first visit to the kingdom since ties had frayed in mid-2017.

Qatar, which is hosting the FIFA soccer World Cup next year, emerged from the spat largely unscathed and resolute in the face of the assault. The campaign, led by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain, achieved little in the face of forcing Qatar to change its policies and pushed the gas-rich nation in closer alliance with Turkey and Iran.

Qatar rejected the quartet's demands, which included that it shutter its Al Jazeera news network, expel a small contingency of Turk-

ish troops from its territory and cut ties with the Muslim Brotherhood. Doha, meanwhile, continued to strengthen its relationship with Washington and denied the allegations made by the quartet that it supports extremists.

While direct flights and business ties were set to resume between Qatar and the quartet nations, the Qatar-based Al Jazeera Arabic and English news websites continue to be blocked in the UAE.

Meanwhile, Turkey's foreign minister is traveling to Saudi Arabia for a two-day visit as Turkey seeks to mend ties with the kingdom that hit an all-time low over the 2018 killing in Istanbul of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The visit is the first by a high-level Turkish official since the killing of Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside the kingdom's consulate.

Good Housekeeping

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
The Daily Meal
(TNS)

As spring emerges and the world continues to heal, our cooking lightens and our commitment to exercise deepens—in theory, at least. At the very least, sunshine and warm breezes can’t help but brighten our attitude this time of year.

Sheet-pan dinners never get old; they continue to inspire and save time on cleanup. Many of these meals, however, have more oil than I prefer. Luckily, steam can be as moisture-enhancing as oil and fat.

In the fish and veggie sheet-pan recipe that follows, I steam seasoned zucchini and shallots in the microwave—no added fat required—before roasting with haddock and tomatoes. The fish only needs a light drizzle of extra virgin olive oil for flavor and moisture. The dish yields a hearty portion of veggies and protein with plenty of nutrition and a super-modest calorie count.

Another spring trick I like to employ is using flavor-packed hot liquids to help stave off cravings and snack attacks. A nice cup of tea or a mug of broth can work wonders.

Similarly, soup is more than a winter meal, as proven by the verdant recipe below. You can create a flavorful, rich broth by gently cooking chicken in water laced with store-bought chicken base and seasonings. Poaching chicken in broth yields both a rich potage and a moist, low-fat protein to use in soups, salads and sandwiches. In the recipe that follows, I add the chicken back to the broth to enjoy as a main course with plenty of spring green vegetables and tender, garden-fresh herbs.

Of course, a mug of broth is no match for the breakfast scones and muffins at the local coffee shop but everything in moderation. On those days when I’m feeling virtuous, there’s nothing more satisfying than yogurt and fruit made hearty with muesli cereal. Prepped overnight, it’s a grab-and-go way to start the day.

Think of it as a warm-weather alternative to hot oatmeal or a fresh take on overnight oats. Tailor the fruit additions to the season or opt for frozen fruit to save prep work. You can even turn the bowl into dessert by adding a scoop of sorbet or spooning a little warm maple syrup or caramel sauce over the top.

Get outside. Eat thoughtfully. We can do this.

■■■

HADDOCK WITH FRESH HERBS AND PAPER-THIN VEGGIES

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 11 minutes
Yield: 2 servings
Notes

Other fish options include cod, rockfish, halibut and salmon. Look for small fillets about 1 inch thick. Serve steamed asparagus as a side dish.

Ingredients

- 3 small zucchini (about 6 ounces each), ends trimmed, sliced into 1/8-inch thick rounds
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 cloves garlic, very thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 medium-size shallots, very thinly sliced
- 2 red-ripe small round or plum tomatoes, ends trimmed, very thinly sliced
- 2 fresh (or thawed frozen) haddock fillets, each about 4 ounces and 1 inch thick
- 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil or avocado oil
- 2 or 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil, chives, dill or a combination, for garnish

Directions

- Heat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit on convection or 425 degrees Fahrenheit on conventional setting. Spray a medium-size baking sheet generously with nonstick spray or brush lightly with olive oil.
- Put sliced zucchini into a large microwave-safe glass or ceramic bowl. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt, several grinds of black pepper and a couple of pinches of crushed red pepper flakes. Toss to distribute the seasonings evenly.
- Cover with a glass lid or plastic wrap vented at one corner. Microwave on high (100 percent power), stirring 2 times, until zucchini is crisp-tender, 3 minutes. Add 3 cloves thinly sliced garlic, 1/2 teaspoon dried basil and 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano. Microwave 30 seconds. Let stand covered.
- Put 2 thinly sliced shallots and 1 tablespoon water into a small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high until tender,



(DAKOTA MACKEY/THE DAILY MEAL/TNS)
Spring chicken and greens soup.

about 2 minutes. Drain well and add to the zucchini.

- Spread zucchini and shallot mixture on a baking sheet in a thin layer. Top with sliced tomatoes. Sprinkle fish on both sides with salt and pepper and place in the center of the vegetables. Drizzle each piece of fish with 1 teaspoon of oil.
- Bake until the fish almost flakes easily, about 6 minutes. Remove from the oven, sprinkle with fresh herbs and serve immediately.

SPRING CHICKEN AND GREENS SOUP

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Yield: 4 servings
Notes

Chicken cooked on the bone with the skin always has the best flavor and texture. You can use 1 pound of boneless skinless breasts instead; reduce cooking time by a few minutes.

Buy the best chicken base available; brands I like include More Than Gourmet, Kitchen Accomplishes Broth Concentrate and Better Than Bouillon Reduced Sodium.

Ingredients

- 5 cups water
- 1 tablespoon chicken base or broth concentrate (or follow package directions)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric or curry powder
- Salt
- 2 small bone-in, skin on chicken breast halves, about 1 ¼ pounds OR 4 bone-in, skin on chicken thighs
- 1 medium-size zucchini, ends trimmed, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced
- 1 cup fresh shelled or frozen peas (or trimmed snow peas, shelled edamame or baby lima beans)
- 1 medium-size red-ripe plum tomato, ends trimmed, diced
- 1/2 small jalapeño, seeded and sliced (optional)
- 3 cups (2.5 ounces) baby spinach or arugula
- 2 skinny green onions, thinly sliced or 3 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh dill
- Finely shredded lemon zest

Optional add-ins:

- 1/2 cup cooked orzo or brown rice
- Diced ripe avocado
- Diced queso fresco

Directions

- Heat 5 cups water to a boil in a large saucepan. Stir in 1 tablespoon chicken base and ½ teaspoon turmeric until dissolved.

Simmer 5 minutes.

- Season broth to taste with salt (usually 1/2 teaspoon, but this depends on the base used). Add chicken breasts or thighs to simmering broth. Reduce heat to very low, cover the pan and cook 15 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the chicken sit in the broth for 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, prepare vegetables and optional add-ins.
- Remove chicken from broth with tongs to a cutting board. Discard skin. Pull chicken away from bones in long shreds. (Broth and chicken can be refrigerated separately for up to 3 days.)
- Just before serving, return broth to a simmer. Add 1 sliced zucchini, 1 cup peas, 1 diced tomato and optional 1/2 sliced jalapeño; cook 2 to 4 minutes (the longer time is for the frozen peas).
- Step 6: Stir in 3 cups spinach and the shredded chicken; simmer 2 minutes. Stir in 2 sliced green onions, 1/4 cup chopped cilantro and 1 tablespoon chopped dill. Add any optional ingredients and sprinkle with lemon zest. Serve in deep, warmed bowls.

OVERNIGHT BREAKFAST BOWL

Ready the next day
Preparation: 10 minutes + overnight chill time
Makes 2 servings
Notes

Muesli cereal delivers a great blend of textures in these overnight bowls. Try a combination of frozen diced mango and blueberries here. Mixed berries or cherries would also taste delicious. You can skip the frozen fruit and serve the cereal topped with sliced banana and fresh berries.

Ingredients

- 1 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk or skim milk
- 1 tablespoon cane syrup, rice syrup, pure maple syrup, agave syrup or honey, to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 1/2 to 2/3 cup muesli cereal, such as Bob’s Red Mill, or old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup chopped fruit, such as frozen mixed fruit or mixed berries

Directions

- Mix 1 cup yogurt, 1/2 cup milk, 1 tablespoon syrup, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and a pinch of salt in a bowl until smooth. Fold in 1/2 to 2/3 cup muesli cereal and 1 cup chopped fruit.
- Spoon mixture into 2 individual covered containers. Refrigerate covered overnight.

Life & Style

Amid outcry, NBC says it will not air Golden Globes in 2022

NEW YORK (AP)—Amid growing pressure on the Hollywood Foreign Press Association from studios, stars and large swaths of the film industry, NBC said Monday that will not air the Golden Globes in 2022, putting in doubt the viability of one of Hollywood's oldest and most-watched award shows.

Criticism of the HFPA, which puts on the Globes and has been denounced for a lack

of diversity and for ethical improprieties, reached such a pitch Monday that Tom Cruise returned his three Globes to the press association's headquarters, according to a person who was granted anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the decision.

In a statement, NBC said it believes the Hollywood Foreign Press Association—which

is facing possible boycotts over the inclusiveness of its membership from Netflix, Warner Bros. and many Hollywood actors—is committed to reform. But change can't come quickly enough for next year's Globes.

"However, change of this magnitude takes time and work, and we feel strongly that the HFPA needs time to do it right," the network said. "As such, NBC will not air the

2022 Golden Globes. Assuming the organization executes on its plan, we are hopeful we will be in a position to air the show in January 2023."

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, long a subject of ridicule from even its own telecast hosts, has come under fire following an investigative report in February by The Los Angeles Times that recounted the organization's

questionable record on diversity—including, presently, no Black members among its roughly 90 voting members.

The press association has pledged to thoroughly reform, and last week approved a plan to, among other things, diversify its membership. But that hasn't stopped several studios from threatening to pull out of the Globes.

Last week, Netflix and Amazon Studios both said they would cut ties with the HFPA if it didn't swiftly enact more drastic changes.

"We don't believe these proposed new policies—particularly around the size and speed of membership growth—will tackle the HFPA's systemic diversity and inclusion challenges, or the lack of clear standards for how your members should operate," Netflix co-chief executive Ted Sarandos wrote in a letter to the group.

In a letter sent Sunday and shared with reporters Monday, WarnerMedia said it would cease holding screenings and other events for the HFPA until it made more substantial changes.

Dracula's castle proves an ideal setting for COVID-19 jabs

BUCHAREST (AP)—At Dracula's castle in picturesque Transylvania, Romanian doctors are offering a jab in the arm rather than a stake through the heart.

A COVID-19 vaccination center has been set up on the periphery of Romania's Bran Castle, which is purported to be the inspiration behind Dracula's home in Bram Stoker's 19th-century gothic novel "Dracula."

Every weekend through May "vaccination marathons" will be held just outside the storied 14th-century hilltop castle, where no appointment is needed, in an attempt to encourage people to protect themselves against COVID-19.

"We wanted to show people a different way to get the (vaccine) needle," Alexandru Priscu, the marketing manager at Bran Castle, told The Associated Press.

Those brave enough to get a Pfizer vaccine shot receive a "vaccination diploma," which is aptly illustrated with a fanged medical worker brandishing a syringe.

"Besides the diploma, people benefit with free entry to



In this Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 file picture, the Gothic Bran Castle, better known as Dracula Castle, is seen on a rainy day in Bran, in Romania's central Transylvania region.

the (castle's) torture rooms, which have 52 medieval torture instruments," Priscu noted.

Since the light-hearted campaign was launched over the weekend—when nearly 400 people were vaccinated—Priscu said he has received scores of requests from foreigners wishing to get vaccinated in the spooky setting. Bad news for them: only

residents of Romania can officially receive a jab.

The campaign runs alongside a series of government initiatives as it pushes to speed up the inoculation campaign for the European Union nation of more than 19 million people. The government is hoping to vaccinate 5 million people by June 1 to herald in a "return to normality."

On Saturday, all vaccination centers in the country became appointment-free after 2 p.m., and round-the-clock "vaccination marathon" events have been launched in several cities throughout Romania.

Since the pandemic started, Romania has recorded more than 1 million COVID-19 infections and 29,034 people have died.

Oprah, Prince Harry reunite for Apple TV+ mental health show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry are teaming up for a series that will delve into mental health issues and feature segments from athletes and stars like Lady Gaga and Glenn Close.

"The Me You Can't See" will be a multi-part documentary series that will debut on Apple TV+ on May 21.

Winfrey and the Duke of Sussex will "guide honest discussions about mental health and emotional well-being while opening up about their mental health journeys and struggles," according to Monday's announcement.

"Now more than ever, there is an immediate need to replace the shame surrounding mental health with wisdom, compassion, and honesty," Winfrey said in a statement. "Our series aims to spark that global conversation."

In addition to Gaga and Close, participants will in-

clude NBA players DeMar DeRozan and Langston Galloway, Olympic boxer Virginia "Ginny" Fuchs and chef Rashad Armstead.

"The majority of us carry some form of unresolved trauma, loss, or grief, which feels—and is—very personal. Yet the last year has shown us that we are all in this together, and my hope is that this series will show there is power in vulnerability, connection in empathy, and strength in honesty," Prince Harry said in a statement.

Winfrey and the duke are the series' co-creators and executive producers. The announcement comes roughly two months after Winfrey's explosive sitdown interview with Harry and his wife, Meghan.

Harry and his wife Meghan have dived heavily into streaming in their post-royal life, signing a deal with Netflix. Meghan has also narrated a documentary for Disney+.

Avid cook savors joy on guests' faces

DEAR ABBY: I have come to realize that the best thing a person can do for anyone is to cook something for them. I enjoy the expression on their faces when they take the first bite, and the positive compliments I receive.

I have a cookbook collection that, at present, numbers more than 3,200 items. I actually ran out of room for all of it in my home. Nevertheless, I would like to order your cookbooks—I guess you could say in order to "feed" my obsession. I'd love to know which of the recipes are among your favorites.

COOKING IT UP IN VERMONT

DEAR COOKING: For years, I, too, obsessively collected cookbooks, so I relate to your addiction. Be careful what you wish for! (My late husband used to walk by the crowded shelves muttering that he couldn't understand why I didn't actually prepare the recipes, but it was the photographs that hooked me.) The recipes in my cookbooklet set of two are ones that I have used for entertaining. Among my favorites in "Favorite Recipes" are the Company Crab Dip, Lobster Bisque, Sweet Potato Casserole (Thanksgiving), Swedish Meatballs, Everybody's Favorite Meatloaf, Burgundy Lamb Shanks, Date Cake, Fruitcake (Yes, I know—but THIS one IS

good!), the Famous Pecan Pie (a blue ribbon winner) and the Chocolate Mousse. Among my favorites from "More Favorite Recipes" are the Little Mushroom "Pies," Hearty Bean Soup, Cathy Lee's Rice, Eggplant Mozzarella Casserole, Cornish Game Hens (stuffed with raisins, walnuts and apple), Chocolate Zucchini Cake (it's healthy!), Raw Apple Cake With Caramel Glaze, Heavenly Peanut Butter Pie and Regency Brownies. For anyone not experiencing sugar shock after reading this, my booklets can be ordered by sending name and address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. After reviewing this list, my mouth is watering, my toes are curling and I'm realizing what a miracle it is that I'm not six ax handles across, but these are dishes I prepare for GUESTS—not my own daily consumption. Readers have written to tell me some of them have won prizes at county fairs in years past, so I'm sure you will enjoy them, too.

DEAR ABBY: I've been in an off-and-on marriage for eight years. My husband drinks every day. Once he's reached a certain alcohol level, he curses me and talks trash about my family. He is no longer affectionate with me. Our marriage is toxic.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



We are living like roommates instead of husband and wife. He won't go to AA and is very disrespectful, and I'm going to leave him. What do you think?

CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE IN GEORGIA

DEAR CAN'T: I think your husband has shown you he isn't going to change for the better. After eight years of living with his drinking problem and verbal abuse, the time has come to consult a lawyer and set yourself free. If you're looking for validation from me, you have it.

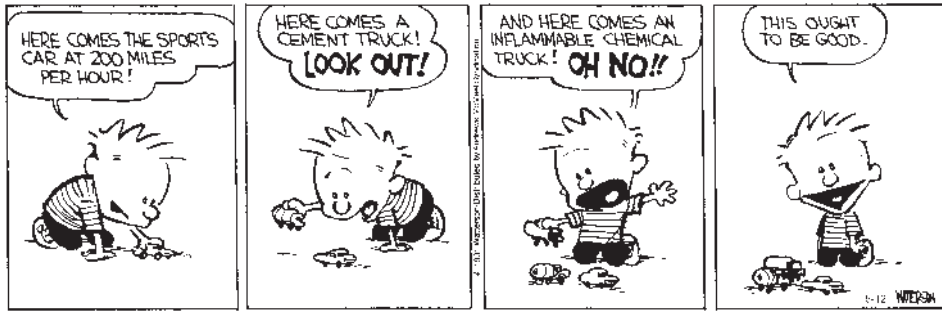
TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone.

ABBY

Pastimes

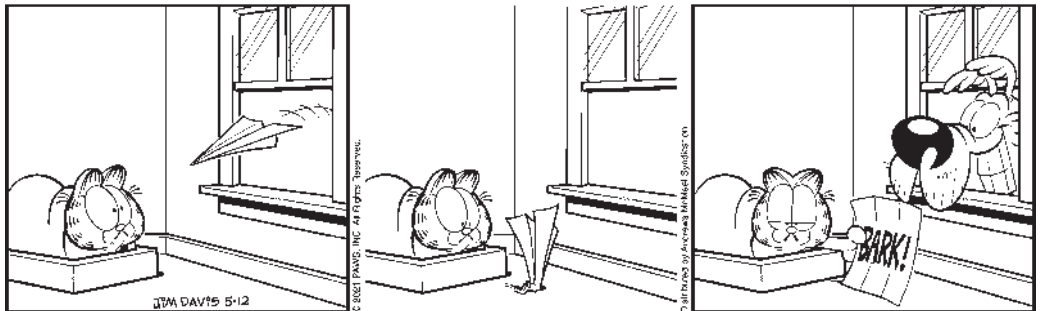
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



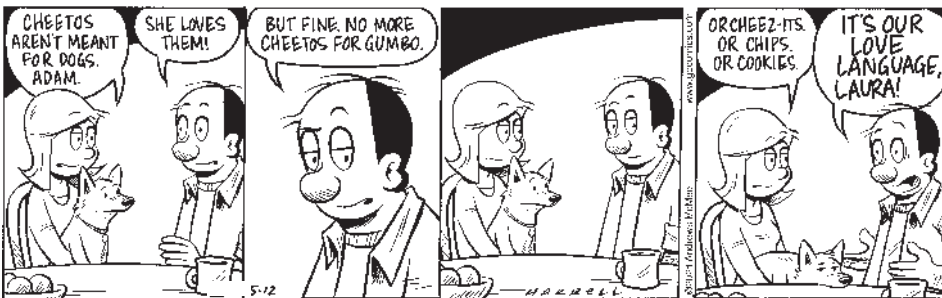
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

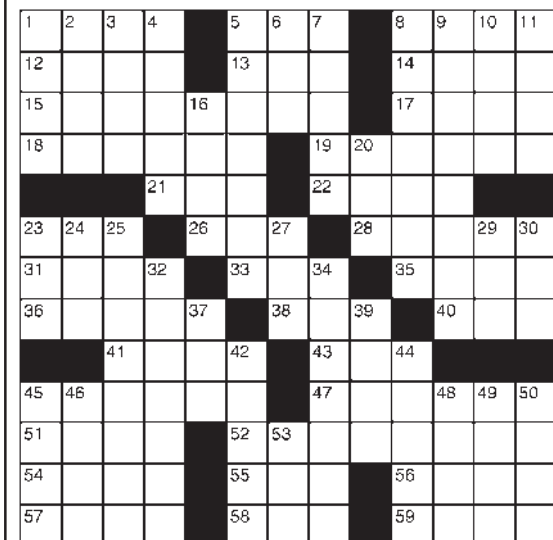
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 First-rate
5 "Awe-some!"
8 Fed. food inspector
12 Genesis shepherd
13 Mess up
14 "Go no further!"
15 Inhabit
17 Lighten
18 Charred
19 More nimble
21 "— Love You" (Beatles hit)
22 Flower pot filler
23 "You've got mail!"
26 Capitol VIP
28 Dutch treats?
31 Furnace fuel
33 Pooch
35 Wild guess
36 Pledge drive freebies
38 Extinct bird
- DOWN**
- 40 Epoch
41 "Do I dare to — peach?"
43 Vintage
45 Bottle top
47 Misgivings
51 Spoken
52 11 p.m. offering
54 French river
55 Rowing tool
56 Make mittens
57 Bygone days
58 "Rah!"
59 Wimble-don units
- 1 Reed instrument**
3 Hip-hop's Salt-N-—
4 Soup eater's noise
5 Geared up
6 Museum display
7 Raiment
8 Log-on needs
9 Work overtime
10 Pre-scribed amount
11 Unoriginal one
16 Minus
20 "The Bells" author
23 Do something
24 Tic-tac-toe win
25 Tardy student's note
27 Paris appellation
29 Scratch
30 Govt. lender
32 Circular
34 "Nice attempt!"
37 Disco guy on "The Simpsons"
39 Skin soother
42 Mixed metal
44 Some basketball game highlights
45 Hen pen
46 Opera house solo
48 Nota —
49 Ninny
50 Bygone jets
53 Small battery

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-12



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emily VanCamp, 35; Domhnall Gleeson, 38; Tony Hawk, 53; Ving Rhames, 62.

Happy Birthday: Keep your life in perspective. If you let the little things get to you, it will affect what you can accomplish. Moderation, discipline and patience will guide you in the right direction. Put your energy and time into what matters to you most, and say no to temptation and individuals using manipulative pressure tactics to govern your decisions. Your numbers are 4, 12, 21, 28, 35, 40, 49.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful who you trust. Don't mix business with pleasure or overspend on something you don't need. Be the driving force behind what you want to accomplish. Now is not the time to depend on others or let down your guard. ***



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Set goals and follow through. Don't wait for someone to make the first move or put you in a vulnerable position. It's your life, your choice and your time to set the record straight and do what's best for you. ***



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't overdo it. Too much of anything will work against you. Stay on top of your administrative work. Concentrate on what you can do to improve your status quo. Look for ways to present what you have to offer. ***



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are overdue for a change. Reach out to someone you trust to give you sound advice. The suggestions you receive will work well with minor adjustments. Don't lose out because

you fear change. Embrace new beginnings and enjoy life. ****



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Reconnect with people you have enjoyed collaborating with in the past, and good things will transpire. A partnership looks promising as long as you can maintain equality and don't go over budget. Romance will enhance your personal life. ****



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Choose your words wisely. If you act on your emotions, you will disrupt your relationship with someone important. Keep your thoughts to yourself until you are sure you won't jeopardize your chance to get ahead. Don't take a risk with your health. **



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's all about enlightenment, finding your bliss and figuring out what you want out of life. Reach into your heart and soul, and you'll find a path that satisfies your spirit. Personal adjustments and self-improvement will change your life. Romance is featured. *****



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When in doubt, sit tight. Don't feel you have to make up your mind because someone pressures you. Take a moment to evaluate what's important to you, and adjust your life to fit your budget. It's OK to do things differently. ***



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep moving forward. Dedicate your time to getting the results you want. Stick to your plan and budget. Assess your lifestyle, relationships and the changes you can make to ensure you reach your goal. Make personal hap-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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piness your priority. ***



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go for what you want to achieve. High energy coupled with determination and hands-on work will lead you to the winner's circle. Make adjustments at home for the right reason. Don't overspend to impress someone. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll face difficulties with a friend, relative or colleague. Sit back and observe the changes going on around you. Don't feel the need to join someone's quest. Live life your way, and pay more attention to taking charge of your happiness. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look around you, and divvy up what you like and what you don't. It's up to you to make the changes that govern your well-being. Don't give in to someone manipulative. Be the master of your destiny. *****

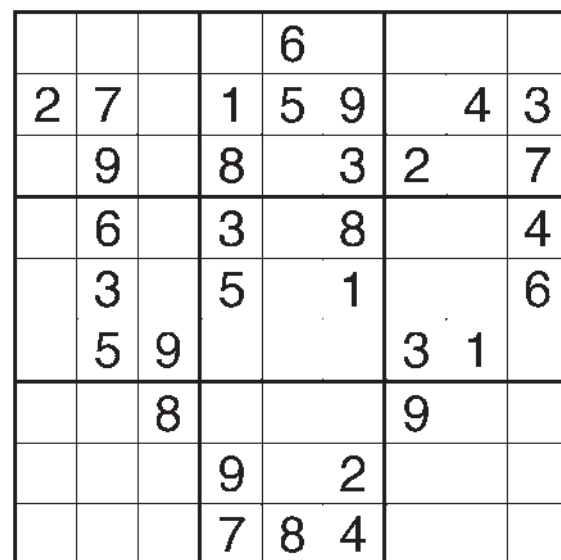
Birthday Baby: You are resilient, impressive and protective. You are intelligent and generous.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



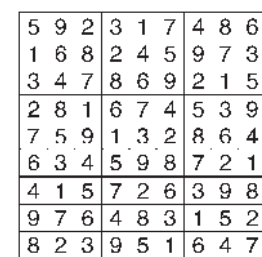
Difficulty Level ★★★

5/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: **

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BAYLOR BEARS — 2021 NCAA CHAMPS!

Solution: 8 letters



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Arkansas, Basketball, Brackets, Bulldogs, Butler, Center, Clock, College, Cougars, Court, Cryer, Drew, Dribbles, Drive, Eight, Elite, Flagler, Forward, Game, Gonzaga, Guard, Jumps, Loveday, Luck, NCAA, Pass, Period, Play, Point, React, Referee, Regional, Rounds, Score, Scott, Seed, Sell, Shot, Stop, Tang, Tchatchoua, Title, Tournament, Undeclared, Vital, Waco

Yesterday's Answer: Fluffy

Treasures 24 through 41 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Westbrook breaks triple-double record, Wizards fall to Hawks



ATLANTA (AP)—Russell Westbrook broke Oscar Robertson's 47-year-old NBA record for triple-doubles and missed a potential game-winning 3-pointer as the Washington Wizards lost 125-124 to the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

Westbrook completed his 182nd triple-double when he pulled down a rebound with 8:29 remaining, completing his season-long march toward a record that had stood since 1974 and was long considered untouchable. The nine-time All-Star and 2016-17 MVP finished with 28 points, 13 rebounds and 21 assists as he carried the load for a Wizards team missing Bradley Beal, the league's No. 2 scorer.

"Honestly it never really bothered me one way or another," Westbrook said. "I'm very confident in the things I do for this game. I take a lot of pride in going out and preparing myself to be one of the most consistent guys in this league. It's a tough thing to be able to do, and I want to give that comfort to my coaches, to my organization, so that when they call my number they know what they're going to get."

Trae Young scored 36 points and John Collins added 28 for the Hawks, who moved within a half-game of the fourth-place New York Knicks in the Eastern Conference. Washington is 10th in the East, which would give the Wizards the final spot in the league's new postseason play-in tournament.

Beal has a strained left hamstring and the Wizards said earlier Monday he would also miss the team's next game, a rematch at Atlanta on Wednesday. He'll be re-evaluated ahead of Friday's game against Cleveland.

Washington called a timeout with 39.7 seconds remaining after Collins' free throws put Atlanta up 125-122. Westbrook followed by hitting a runner and the Hawks called timeout with 18.2 seconds left.

Westbrook protested briefly that he was fouled on the play, but he got a clean look at a 3-pointer with 2 seconds left. His shot bounced off the rim, and Westbrook pounded the ball hard against the floor when the game ended.

"We talk about Oscar Robertson and a lot of us are not old enough to know how the Big O played, but you're seeing that in Westbrook," interim Hawks coach Nate McMillan said. "His ability to really just dominate a game, score, assist and rebound from that guard position, this is what the Big O was doing a long time ago. To see it at this day and time is incredible."



AP
Washington Wizards' Russell Westbrook, right, is congratulated by Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young after an NBA basketball game Monday, May 10, 2021, in Atlanta.

Bogdan Bogdanovich finished with 25 points and Clint Capela had 22 rebounds for Atlanta, which has won four of five.

Young buried a 27-foot 3 to push the lead to 17 points near the end of the third, but after the Hawks went up by a game-high 19 early in the fourth, the Wizards trimmed the lead to one midway through the period.

The Wizards led 62-60 at halftime. Washington dropped to 25-5 when leading at intermission.

Washington center Robin Lopez felt blessed to play alongside Westbrook on the record-breaking night.

"He's been relentless," Lopez said. "He's been locked in and that's something that anyone on the roster will tell you. It's trickled down to everybody. It's certainly a boon to have him on the floor with us."

He's been locked in and that's something that anyone on the roster will tell you. It's trickled down to everybody. It's certainly a boon to have him on the floor with us."

Warriors 119, Jazz 116

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 14 seconds left, moments after missing from deep, and scored 36 points to lead Golden State past Western Conference-leading Utah.

The Warriors kept hold of the eighth seed in the West.

Curry, coming off a 49-point performance with 11 3-pointers in 29 minutes in Saturday's 136-97 thumping of the Thun-

der, wasn't nearly as sharp — but his supporting cast did plenty to take the pressure off.

Jordan Poole finished with 20 points off the bench and Kent Bazemore scored 19.

Jordan Clarkson scored 41 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 27 for a Utah team still missing injured All-Star guards Donovan Mitchell and Mike Conley.

Grizzlies 115, Pelicans 110

In Memphis, Tenn., Dillon Brooks scored 23 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks, and Memphis secured a spot the postseason play-in tournament by beating New Orleans.

Kyle Anderson had 14 points and four blocks, while Ja Morant had 12 points and 12 assists.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker led the short-handed Pelicans with 18 points, while Willy Hernangomez had 15 points and eight rebounds. James Johnson and Jaxson Hayes scored 13 points each.

The Pelicans were without leading scorers Zion Williamson and Brandon Ingram, along with Josh Hart and Steven Adams.

Spurs 146, Bucks 125

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan had 23 points and San An-

tonio set a franchise record for points in the first half while rolling past Milwaukee.

San Antonio had 87 points in the first half, the second-most the club has scored in any half. The Spurs tied their mark for any half with 12 3-pointers in the first and finished 17 for 29 from long range.

Dejounte Murray added 21 points, Keldon Johnson and Patty Mills each had 20 and Rudy Gay scored 19 for San Antonio. Mills and Gay combined to shoot 9 for 15 on 3s.

Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points on 11-for-16 shooting. Khris Middleton added 23 points and Jrue Holiday had 20. Milwaukee had a five-game winning streak snapped and dropped a game behind idle Brooklyn for second place in the Eastern Conference.

Pacers 111, Cavaliers 102

In Cleveland, Domantas Sabonis had 21 points, 20 rebounds and nine assists as Indiana beat Cleveland and strengthened its hold on a play-in tournament spot.

Kelan Martin scored a career-high 25 points and Caris LeVert had 20 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who moved one-half game ahead of Washington into ninth place in the Eastern Conference.

Collin Sexton scored 25 points for the Cavaliers in their 11th straight loss, matching the eighth-longest skid in team history. Rookie Isaac Okoro had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Dean Wade had 19 points and 12 rebounds in their first career double-doubles.

Trail Blazers 140, Rockets 129

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard had 34 points and nine rebounds, and Portland raced past Houston.

The Blazers scored 50 points in the first quarter, setting a franchise record for scoring in a period, and tied an NBA record for 3-pointers made in a quarter with 12. CJ McCollum had 21 points in the first as Portland built a 17-point lead.

McCollum finished with 28 points and Norman Powell also scored 28 for the Blazers, who never trailed as they moved within one-half game of fifth-place Dallas in the Western Conference.

Kelly Olynyk had 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the NBA-worst Rockets, and D.J. Augustin also scored 21.

NBA BRIEFS

Celtics' Jaylen Brown out for season with wrist injury

BOSTON (AP)—Celtics All-Star forward Jaylen Brown will miss the rest of the season with a torn ligament in his left wrist. The team said in a statement Monday that Brown learned of the injury to his scapholunate ligament this past weekend and is expected to have surgery later this week. Brown has missed the Celtics' past three games with a sprained right ankle, which he sustained during a collision with Jayson Tatum late in a 129-119 loss to Portland on May 2. Boston (35-33) has lost two of three since then and entered Monday seventh in the Eastern Conference with four games left. His injury is the latest blow to a team that was hoping to challenge for the conference title a season

after losing to Miami in the conference finals. Boston has struggled to find consistency as several key players have either been injured or spent extended time in the league's health and safety protocols. Brown's absence will make it difficult for Boston to avoid the play-in round of the postseason. He appeared to injure the wrist during Boston's 119-115 loss to Oklahoma City on April 27, but said afterward he was "fine." It was one of the best games of the season for Brown, who finished with 39 points, 11 rebounds and four steals. Brown logged 113 minutes over the Celtics' next three games, averaging 24 points. He is averaging 24.7 points, six rebounds and 3.4 assists in 58 games this season. The points and assists are career highs. Celtics second-year guard Romeo

Langford tore the same ligament prior to training camp in September. He was sidelined for six months, missed Boston's first 49 games and didn't make his season debut until last month.

NBA ref diagnosed with cancer, will miss rest of season

NEW YORK (AP)—Veteran referee Tony Brown, who worked his first NBA Finals last season, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and will miss the rest of the season. The NBA announced Monday that the 54-year-old has been undergoing treatment since his diagnosis last month. Brown has officiated 1,109 regular-season games, 35 playoff games and the 2018 All-Star Game in Los Angeles in his 19 seasons as an NBA official. "He's a heck of an official in the league,"

Jazz coach Quin Snyder said before Monday night's game at Golden State. "You get to know guys and someone that's not only an excellent official but just a quality person. We wish him well and we're thinking about him." Before moving to the NBA, Brown worked for four seasons in both the NBA G League and CBA and three seasons in the WNBA. He refereed the 2002 WNBA Finals, the 2002 WNBA All-Star Game and the 2001 CBA Finals. "Tony is a beloved member of the NBA family, and in particular, our officiating family," said Monty McCutchen, NBA senior vice president for referee development and training. "In addition to exemplifying what it means to be a world class referee on the court, Tony also touches so many lives off the court."

Mancini, O's avoid 4-game sweep, beat Red Sox, 4-1



ALTIMORE
(AP)—Cedric Mullins raced

around the bases for a bizarre bloop triple, Trey Mancini hit a go-ahead solo homer and the Baltimore Orioles four-hit the Boston Red Sox for a 4-1 victory Monday night.

The Orioles had dropped their first six games at Camden Yards this season against the Red Sox and avoided a four-game sweep. It was the first time the home team won in 10 games between the teams this season.

"To salvage a series like this, it's not exactly easy to do when you're down 3-0 in a series," Mancini said. "They've been playing great baseball over there. That's a fantastic team they have. To win the fourth one and go into a two-game series tomorrow feels good and shows the resolve this team has."

Boston still has the best record (22-14) and the best road record (12-5) in baseball.

Mullins' heads-up baserunning helped the O's add an insurance run in the eighth. He hit a high popup into shallow left field leading off, finding an open spot against Boston's shifted infield defense. Shortstop Xander Bogaerts raced over from near second base and deflected the ball twice before it fell.

Mullins alertly sprinted all the way to third, diving under catcher Christian Vázquez's tag.

"It was a fluke play," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Everybody reacted the right way. ... A good heads-up play by their guy."

Two batters later, Mancini's sharp single against Boston's drawn-in infield made it 3-1, and Freddy Galvis' sacrifice fly later in the inning supplied the Orioles' final run.

Baltimore's bullpen combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings, retiring all 10 batters it faced. Tanner Scott (2-2) struck out his only hitter to complete the sixth, Travis Lakins Sr. and Paul Fry both completed perfect innings, and César Valdez worked the ninth for his eighth save.

"We pitched so well tonight," manager Brandon Hyde said.

Mancini put the Orioles ahead 2-1 with a blast to center off reliever Matt Andriese (1-2) to lead off the sixth.

Orioles starter Jorge López went a season-high 5 2/3 innings, scattering four hits while striking out five and maintaining control except for a brief sequence in the fourth after yielding J.D. Martinez's one-out single. Over the course of three pitches, Martinez moved up a base on a hit batsman, a wild pitch and Rafael Devers' sacrifice fly to tie it at 1.



López gave up a leadoff double in the fifth, but with Scott warming, he retired the next three batters and then pitched into the sixth for the first time this season.

"I've been battling the last couple games," López said. "Getting out of that inning gives me a little more confidence to keep pushing."

Ryan Mountcastle lined his third homer down the left-field line off Boston's Martin Pérez, who otherwise navigated five innings with little difficulty. He allowed four hits and one

run and struck out four.

Mountcastle added a single, giving him consecutive multi-hit games for the first time this season. He has five multi-hit games in his last 10 outings after recording two in his first 25 games in 2021.

Angels 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Jared Walsh homered and matched a career high with four hits, Justin Upton also connected and Los Angeles rallied in the sixth inning to beat Houston.

The Angels trailed by three

and Houston starter Luis Garcia had retired seven in a row before Walsh cracked his homer to the corner of right field with one out in the sixth. Upton followed with his shot, which hit on the wall above the seats in left field, to cut the lead to 4-3 and end Garcia's night.

Brandon Bielak (1-2) walked Jose Rojas before a double by Taylor Ward. The Angels tied it when Rojas scored on Phil Gosselin's single on a ground-ball that shortstop Carlos Correa didn't field cleanly. The Angels went on top 5-4 when

Ward scored on a sacrifice bunt by Drew Butera.

In a bullpen game, José Suarez (1-0) allowed five hits and one run in four innings of relief for the win and Raisel Iglesias allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth for his sixth save.

Giants 3, Rangers 1

In San Francisco, Mauricio Dubon broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-out, pinch-hit single, Alex Wood won for the fourth time in five starts and San Francisco beat Texas.

Brandon Belt hit his eighth

Baltimore Orioles Trey Mancini (16) is greeted by Pedro Severino (28) after hitting sixth inning solo home run during a baseball game Monday, May 10, 2021, in Baltimore.

home run and Mike Yastrzemski doubled for San Francisco. The Giants (21-14) are tied with idle St. Louis for the best record in the National League.

Wood (4-0) had seven strikeouts and allowed one run in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 1.80. The lefty got double plays in the fifth and seventh innings and fanned Adolis Garcia and Joey Gallo with two on and one out in the sixth.

Tyler Rogers retired three batters. Jake McGee allowed two hits in the ninth but got Charlie Culberson to pop out to third to end it.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 2

In Phoenix, Luke Weaver pitched scoreless ball into the seventh inning for his best outing in nearly a month, which helped Arizona snap a six-game losing streak.

Weaver (2-3) cruised though 6 1/3 innings, giving up four hits, striking out six and dominating a team that beat him a week ago in Miami.

The Marlins scored their only runs in the eighth when Jesús Aguilar smacked a two-run homer off Joakim Soria into the left-center seats. Jordan Holloway (1-1) took the loss in his first career start, giving up four runs over 3 2/3 innings.

Stefan Crichton threw a scoreless ninth for his fourth save. Right fielder Pavin Smith stole a solo homer from pinch-hitter Sandy Leon for the final out, jumping at the fence and snagging the ball just before it went over.

Reds 14, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Tyler Naquin homered and drove in four runs, Tucker Barnhart keyed a six-run fourth inning with a two-run double and Cincinnati routed Pittsburgh.

Naquin's three-run shot bounced off the right-field foul pole and made it 11-1 in the seventh. He also doubled home a run in the fourth.

Nick Senzel had a two-run single, Eugenio Suarez broke an 0-for-15 slump with a solo homer and Nick Castellanos added a two-run double for the Reds (16-16). Tyler Mahle (2-1) allowed one run in 5 1/3 innings, striking out seven.

Mitch Keller (2-4) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in 3 1/3 innings. His ERA is 7.81 after seven starts. The skidding Pirates have dropped nine of 11 since moving one game over .500.

MLB BRIEFS

Pujols cut, Cabrera struggling and Verlander still sidelined

A decade ago, Albert Pujols won his second World Series title with the St. Louis Cardinals. That same year, Justin Verlander was the American League MVP, and Miguel Cabrera won his first of three straight batting titles — the latter two would be accompanied by MVP honors of his own. Time can catch up with any player, of course, and in 2021, that proud trio is in a much different spot. Pujols was designated for assignment Thursday by the Los Angeles Angels, Cabrera is hitting well under .200 for Detroit, and Verlander hasn't pitched at all this year following Tommy John surgery. Pujols, a three-time MVP with the Cardinals, is the oldest of that bunch at age 41. He hasn't been an All-Star since 2015, and now the big question is whether he can find a team willing to give him regular playing time. He's hitting .198 on the season, although five of his 17 hits have been home runs, pushing his career total to 667. Cabrera began the season with a classic opening day highlight, homering in the snow at Comerica

Park. He's struggled mightily since then. Even after a couple of two-hit games Friday and Saturday, he's batting .149 and has only two home runs. Cabrera needs 124 hits to reach 3,000 and 11 homers to reach 500. He contract runs through at least 2023. Verlander, Cabrera's former teammate from their Detroit days, enjoyed a resurgence in recent years, winning his second Cy Young Award in 2019 with Houston. Then he made only one appearance last year and had Tommy John surgery Oct. 1. He's been throwing from 90 feet, but there's no clear timetable for his return. The 38-year-old right-hander is eligible for free agency after this season. (AP)

Mets to put deGrom on injured list with right side tightness

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom will be placed on the injured list by the New York Mets with tightness in his right side, a move that will keep the ace from taking the mound until May 20 at the earliest. The Mets said an MRI on Sunday night was "clean of any issues." The team said it will place deGrom on the injured list be-

fore Tuesday's series opener against Baltimore, a move that will be retroactive to Monday. A 32-year-old right-hander, deGrom is 3-2 with a major league-best 0.68 ERA and 65 strikeouts, two behind Trevor Bauer of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the NL lead. DeGrom has seven walks in 40 innings over six starts. He pulled himself from Sunday's outing against Arizona, his first appearance after skipping a start due to discomfort in his right latissimus dorsi, a back muscle that connects the upper arm to the spine and the hip. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner threw 68 pitches over five innings against Arizona, allowing one run, but he called for trainer Brian Chicklo when he felt tightness trying to get loose before the sixth. He left with Chicklo and went straight to the clubhouse. DeGrom struck out six and allowed one hit. He was perfect through four innings before struggling in the fifth, when he allowed a run and walked three in an inning for just the second time in his big league career, the first since May 13, 2018, at Philadelphia. He left one inning in that game, his return from the injured list. DeGrom is base-

ball's hardest-throwing starting pitcher, with 79 pitches of 100 mph or higher since the start of the 2020 season, according to MLB Statcast. Miami's Sixto Sánchez in second with 13. Of those, deGrom reached 100 mph 42 times in the first inning alone. Sánchez is second with eight. New York said it will announce a corresponding roster move on Tuesday.

Todd Frazier, 2-time All-Star hitting .086, cut by Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Two-time All-Star infielder Todd Frazier was designated for assignment by the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday after hitting .086 in 13 games. Frazier, 35, had just three hits in 35 at-bats with no home runs and four RBIs. The Pirates made the move to open a roster spot for outfielder Ben Gamel, who was claimed off waivers Sunday from the Cleveland Indians. The Pirates signed Frazier to a minor league contract after he spent last year's pandemic-shortened season with the Texas Rangers and New York Mets. The 11-year veteran has a .241 career batting average with 218 home runs.

Report: Tebow-Meyer reunion on verge of becoming official

By MARK LONG
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Tim Tebow and Urban Meyer are apparently getting back together, this time in the NFL.

The former Florida star and 2007 Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback is expected to team up with his college coach by signing a one-year contract to play for the Jacksonville Jaguars, the NFL Network reported Monday.

The league-owned network said the deal “could be official

in the next week or so.”

The 33-year-old Tebow would be returning to the NFL after four years (2016-19) in the New York Mets’ organization and he’d be playing for Meyer for the first time since his senior year in 2009.

This reunion would come with a twist, though.

Tebow would be joining the Jaguars as a tight end. He switched positions after retiring from baseball in February. He worked out for Jacksonville a week later.

Meyer and general manager Trent Baalke are seemingly waiting until after this week-



Former Florida football player Tim Tebow speaks to fans after he was inducted in the Ring of Honor at Florida Field during the first half of an NCAA college football game against LSU in Gainesville, Fla., in this Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, file photo.

roster who previously played for Meyer, joining Farrell, running back Carlos Hyde, guard Andrew Norwell, defensive end Lerentee McCray and defensive tackle DaVon Hamilton.

Tebow played quarterback for Meyer between 2006 and 2009, helping the Gators win two national championships while becoming one of the most recognizable—and polarizing—athletes in college sports.

He was a first-round draft pick by Denver in 2010, but his long windup led to a short NFL career. He spent time with the Broncos, the New York Jets, New England and Philadelphia. His last NFL game came with the Jets in 2012.

They cut him in April 2013, three months after then-Jaguars general manager Dave Caldwell famously said he wouldn’t sign Tebow “even if he’s released.”

end’s rookie minicamp to get the deal done.

Tebow, who grew up in Jacksonville, could fill a huge hole with his hometown team. The Jaguars decided not to pick up a team option in veteran Tyler Eifert’s contract and traded oft-injured 2019 draft pick Josh Oliver to Baltimore. They signed run-blocking specialist Chris Manhertz in free agency, brought back James O’Shaughnessy and drafted Ohio State’s Luke Farrell in

the fifth round.

Those were considered minor moves after Meyer vowed to completely revamp the position group. Tebow, at the very least, would provide a splash.

“That will be interesting to see how that contributes to us on offense,” Jaguars co-owner Tony Khan said recently. “Obviously Urban knows Tim really well, and Tim’s got a great history of winning. Urban really believes he can help

us, and I think it makes a lot of sense. And it’s a position where we need to get better.”

But how much can a guy on the wrong side of 30 who’s never played the position bring to the team? Tebow’s value could mean as much off the field as on it.

Meyer has said repeatedly that signing players who already know his methodology would be helpful in Year 1. Tebow would become the sixth guy on Jacksonville’s

Allie Brasuell of Saipan Community School who came in at 7:24 to earn the bronze medal.

Windsor also took home the gold in the 400m event after submitting a time of 1:29. Closely tailing her was Scarlett Burrell who finished the race at 1:34. Coming in at third place to earn her the bronze was Allie Brasuell who came in at 1:39.

Arriola also won a gold medal and contributed to SIS’

total score after besting foes in the 60m event with a time of 11:18. SCS’ Maria Haberman earned the silver medal with a time of 11:43, followed by Yummy Peng from SIS who recorded a time of 11:56.

Also topping an event last weekend was Ka’isa San Nicolas from Tinian who prevailed in the softball throw with a distance of 26.25m. Alina Esakova came in second with a distance of 20.4m, fol-

lowed by Beatrice Gross who recorded a distance of 20.1m.

SCS’ Allie Brasuell took to the gold in the 800m event with a time of 3:33. Her runner-up, Lucy Woo, came a few seconds later with a time of 3:41 to earn the silver medal. Claiming the bronze medal was Leilani Ruszala who finished at 3:42.

Saipan Tribune will report results of the 12U girls events in the coming days.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	47	21	.691	—
x-Brooklyn	44	24	.647	3
New York	38	30	.559	9
Boston	35	33	.515	12
Toronto	27	41	.397	20

Southeast Division

Atlanta	38	31	.551	—
Miami	37	31	.544	½
Charlotte	33	35	.485	4½
Washington	32	37	.464	6
Orlando	21	47	.309	16½

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	43	25	.632	—
Indiana	32	36	.471	11
Chicago	29	39	.426	14
Cleveland	21	48	.304	22½
Detroit	20	49	.290	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	40	28	.588	—
Memphis	35	33	.515	5
San Antonio	33	35	.485	7
New Orleans	31	38	.449	9½
Houston	16	53	.232	24½

Northwest Division

y-Utah	50	19	.725	—
x-Denver	44	24	.647	5½
Portland	40	29	.580	10
Minnesota	21	47	.309	28½
Oklahoma City	21	48	.304	29

Pacific Division

x-Phoenix	48	20	.706	—
x-L.A. Clippers	45	23	.662	3
L.A. Lakers	38	30	.559	10
Golden State	36	33	.522	12½
Sacramento	30	38	.441	18

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Curry, GS	60	624	340	1912	31.9
Beal, WAS	59	662	402	1853	31.4
Embiid, PHI	49	455	465	1432	29.2
Lillard, POR	63	558	426	1801	28.6
Antetokounmpo, MIL	57	584	374	1607	28.2
Doncic, DAL	62	618	329	1747	28.2
Iring, BKN	51	529	198	1399	27.4
LaVine, CHI	56	546	243	1526	27.3
Williamson, NO	61	634	369	1647	27.0
Mitchell, UTA	53	478	267	1401	26.4
Jokic, DEN	68	695	314	1796	26.4
Tatum, BOS	61	574	279	1604	26.3
Booker, PHO	64	597	320	1633	25.5
Young, ATL	59	454	457	1497	25.4
Fox, SAC	58	529	300	1461	25.2
Leonard, LAC	50	454	249	1256	25.1
Brown, BOS	58	538	191	1430	24.7
Sexton, CLE	56	498	276	1365	24.4
Vucevic, CHI	67	650	129	1601	23.9
Randle, NY	67	567	320	1603	23.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	370	548	.675
Holmes, SAC	361	564	.640
Allen, CLE	281	447	.629
Poeltl, SA	247	395	.625
Ayton, PHO	426	682	.625
Harrell, LAL	362	580	.624

Williamson, NO	634	1037	.611
Kanter, POR	327	542	.603
Capela, ATL	396	667	.594
Valanciunas, MEM	411	706	.582

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	60	283	573	856	14.3
Gobert, UTA	67	222	669	891	13.3
Valanciunas, MEM	59	243	493	736	12.5
Sabonis, IND	58	141	546	687	11.8
Vucevic, CHI	67	142	636	778	11.6
Westbrook, WAS	61	105	600	705	11.6
Kanter, POR	68	274	484	758	11.1
Antetokounmpo, MIL	57	92	540	632	11.1
Jokic, DEN	68	193	544	737	10.8
Embiid, PHI	49	112	414	526	10.7

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Westbrook, WAS	61	700	11.5
Young, ATL	59	560	9.5
Paul, PHO	67	595	8.9
Green, GS	60	528	8.8
Doncic, DAL	62	537	8.7
Jokic, DEN	68	576	8.5
Lillard, POR	63	478	7.6
Morant, MEM	59	428	7.3
Butler, MIA	50	362	7.2
Fox, SAC	58	417	7.2

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	14	.611	—
New York	18	16	.529	3
Tampa Bay	19	17	.528	3
Toronto	17	16	.515	3½
Baltimore	16	19	.457	5½

Central Division

Chicago	19	13	.594	—
Cleveland	18	14	.563	1
Kansas City	16	17	.485	3½
Minnesota	12	20	.375	7
Detroit	10	24	.294	10

West Division

Oakland	21	15	.583	—
Houston	18	17	.514	2½
Seattle	18	17	.514	2½
Texas	18	19	.486	3½
Los Angeles	16	18	.471	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	16	13	.552	—
Philadelphia	18	17	.514	1
Atlanta	17	17	.500	1½
Miami	15	19	.441	3½
Washington	13	17	.433	3½

Central Division

St. Louis	21	14	.600	—
Milwaukee	19	16	.543	2
Chicago	17	17	.500	3½
Cincinnati	16	16	.500	3½
Pittsburgh	14	20	.412	6½

West Division

San Francisco	21	14	.600	—
San Diego	19	16	.543	2
Los Angeles	18	17	.514	3
Arizona	16	19	.457	5
Colorado	12	22	.353	8½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LADY

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corded a time of 17:52. Fellow Lady Turtle Elena Teigita was awarded the bronze medal after coming in at 17:85.

Meanwhile, Windsor succeeded in the 1,500m with a time of 7:14 to earn a gold medal, followed by Leilani Ruszala who took the silver medal after recording a time of 7:23. Rounding up the Top 3 was

DA MISTERS

From Page 20

torious after a 21-18, 23-21 win over Ocho.

According to Boonie Babies Saipan co-founder Grace Keilbach, the fundraiser raised over \$2,000 for the Saipan Cares for Animals to spread awareness about stray dogs on Saipan.

“We were able to raise over \$2,000 as well as get four boonie dogs adopted. A lot of people don’t realize the love these dogs and cats have to give. We were overwhelmed with the support from our community and look forward to seeing everyone on the courts again next year,” she said

Sets for Pets was the first organized volleyball tournament fundraiser for Saipan Cares For Animals and aimed to raise money and awareness for the boonie dogs of Saipan.

“We wanted to create an event where people from the community could not only



Aria and Grace Keilbach, co-founders of the Boonie Babies, who organized the inaugural Sets for Pets fundraising tournament last weekend.

have fun but help benefit an amazing cause. Our main goals were to raise money for SCA, spread awareness about what people can do to help, and promote boonie dog adoptions,” said Keilbach.

For individuals who would like to learn more about Boonie Babies and what you can do to support the cause, check out their Instagram and Facebook page at Boonie Babies Saipan.

Boonie Babies Saipan thanks Gold’s Gym, Narak, Bvlgario Nails, Chef Chan’s Pizza, Ina’s Kitchin Pulani Crowns, and Tbar for their contributions that made the event possible.



Westbrook breaks
triple-double record,
Wizards fall to Hawks

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Report: Tebow-Meyer
reunion on verge of
becoming official

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Da Mistery tops Sets for Pets tourney



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Da Mistery topped the inaugural Sets for Pets Volleyball Tournament organized by the newly established Boonie Babies Saipan, a dog rescue/foster organization.



During the double-elimination tournament last weekend, Da Mistery topped 14 other teams who came out to support the fundraiser that aims to raise awareness about “boonie” dogs, or strays, on Saipan as well to raise funds to rescue them and find them loving homes.

Da Mistery, whose team members include dad Tyce, mom Angie, and kids Blake, Logan, and Dylan conquered the tournament after outplay-

ing All About Aces during a close finals match.

All About Aces was made up of Steven Hong, Sam Ryu, Bruce Berline, Mauryzon Tybacco, Andy Kim, and Matthew Berline.

The eventual champions started off the match strong, taking the lead with a 23-21 victory, before losing the second set to All About Aces, 15-21. Da Mistery made a comeback in the defining third set, edging out All About Aces, 15-11.

Aside from dominating the finals, Da Mistery swept all their matches to take the finals seat in the winner's bracket. They topped their first match against He's Bleeding, 21-8, to move on and face Mixed Breed where they took an easy 21-14 victory to move on to the quarterfinals where they

battled All About Aces. In the first battle against All About Aces, Da Mistery coasted past their foes, 21-12, to gain access to the semifinals where they came head to head against Ocho. Da Mistery coasted past Ocho, taking a 21-15 victory in the first set, followed by 21-16 victory in the second set to land the first finals seat.

All About Aces took a longer route to the finals after being kicked to the loser's bracket after dropping their first match against Da Mistery.

The eventual runner-up took an easy win against their first competitor, Boop Set Spike, with a 21-11 victory to advance to their next match of the day against CBB. They prevailed with a 21-12 victory, gaining access to the quarterfinals where they eventually lost to Da Mistery.

In the loser's bracket, All About Aces fought CBB again and succeeded with a 21-17 win. They moved on to face VB 4 Life where they took a 21-19 victory. Now in the semis of the loser's bracket, All About Aces came out vic-

See DA MISTERY on Page 19

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Saipan International School topped the girls elementary division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend.

SIS came out on top with a combined total score of 229 for the 9U and 12U girls division followed by Kagman Elementary School who finished with a total of 85 points. Com-

pleting the Top 3 was Tinian Elementary School who accumulated a total of 78 points.



Sister duo Beatrice and Windsor Gross led the way for SIS' girls 9U team after topping a total of five championship events together.

Beatrice Gross dominated the long jump, the 200m event, and the 100m event, while her sister Windsor prevailed in the 1,500m race and the 400m event. Also contributing to the team's victory was their schoolmate Neveah Arriola,

Lady Geckos top elementary meet

which topped the 60m race.

In the long jump, Beatrice's distance of 3.40m gained her a gold medal followed by Alina Esakova from Oleai Elementary School who submitted distance of 3.29m. Completing the Top 3 for the event was SIS' Leilani Ruszala who

recorded a distance of 2.83m.

Beatrice later won the 200m after finishing at 34:84 to earn her another gold medal. Brilliant Star School's Scarlett Burrell earned a silver medal after completing the race in 38:59 followed closely by third place winner Lucy Woo

from SIS at 38:81.

Finally, Beatrice earned herself another gold medal in the 100m race after completing the course in 16:67. Taking home the silver medal was Alina Esakova who re-

See LADY on Page 19



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Beatrice Gross topped three of eight, events in the girls 9U division of the annual 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Saipan International School topped the girls 9U and 12U elementary division of the annual 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend.

NMIVA launches grassroots volleyball

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will launch its

Back to Our Roots-Co-ed 4 on 4 Grass Volleyball Tournament next weekend.

The tournament, which will be held at the Capitol Hill Baseball Field on May 22, will start off with pool play and will be followed by a double-elimination tournament.

Interested participants must register on site on May 22 from 7:30am to 8am before the tournament begins.

Participants must also pay a \$10 fee per player.

The event is expected to run for 10 hours and 30 minutes, from 7:30am to 6pm.

For additional inquiries, feel free to contact NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com.